

OIC talks bogged down on Gulf war

FEZ, Morocco (R) — A diplomatic battle between Iran and Iraq over the five-year Gulf war is bogging down the annual Islamic Conference of Arab Ministers' meeting due to wind up on Friday, Arab diplomats said. Marathon sessions by the conference's political committee failed to break the impasse and the issue has been referred to the ministers in plenary session later on Friday, they said. Iraq has tabled a resolution backed by several countries, including Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt, calling for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of troops behind pre-war borders. It also exhorts Iran to cooperate with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) peace efforts. Iran has tabled a counter-resolution which basically aims at regulating the war by forbidding the use of chemical weapons and attacks on civilian population, the sources said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، والرأي.

U.N. body to debate Lebanon complaint

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council will meet on Monday to consider Lebanon's complaint of "continuing acts of aggression and abusive tactics" by Israeli forces occupying southern Lebanon. A U.N. spokesman announced the session after council members met in private on Friday to review the Lebanese request for action. Diplomatic sources said a draft resolution to condemn the Israelis had been prepared and that the United States appeared certain to invoke its veto to block adoption of the measure. They said both the United States and Israel were likely to use the Monday debate to reopen the question of terrorism, including allegations that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi backed the guerrilla attacks on the Vienna and Rome airports last month.

Volume 11 Number 3066

AMMAN, SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 1986, RABIA AL THANI 29, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Israel plans to demolish Gaza homes

AMMAN (U.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities are planning to demolish 60 houses belonging to Arab citizens in Rafah and Khan Younis cities in the occupied Gaza Strip, under the pretext that these houses are not licensed, the Jordanian News Agency Petra said. Owners of the houses, which are inhabited by more than 300 Palestinians, have approached the Israeli authorities requesting that their houses be licensed, but their requests have repeatedly been rejected although the buildings meet the required conditions for licensing, Petra said.

Arafat in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Riyadh on Thursday for a visit due to last several days, a PLO spokesman in the Saudi capital said. Mr. Arafat arrived from Baghdad and the spokesman said the PLO chief was expected to have talks with King Fahd. He gave no other details.

Spain reaffirms move towards Israel

MADRID (AP) — Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, summoned Arab ambassadors to his office on Friday to tell them Spain planned to go ahead with its intention to establish diplomatic relations with Israel this year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. A meeting last week in Tunis, members of the Arab League urged Spain to move towards the Jewish state and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khil told reporters he planned to visit Madrid to impress upon the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez "the gravity of such a change." Spokeswoman Aurora Ada Fernandez de Cordoba said the ministry was "studying" Mr. Chadi's request.

Columbia launch reset for Sunday

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The launch of the shuttle Columbia on its first flight in more than two years was postponed for a second seventh time on Friday as wind and heavy rain belted the shuttle on its launch pad. The launching was rescheduled for Sunday at 6:55 a.m., giving technicians a day to check the shuttle's propulsion lines for possible damage as a result of these fueling delays. It was the fourth postponement for the flight in five days.

Group of five ministers to meet

LONDON (R) — Finance ministers from the five leading industrialised nations will meet in London for private talks on Jan. 31 and 19, a Treasury (Finance Ministry) spokesman said on Friday. An earlier report by Reuters said the meeting between the so-called "Group of Five" would be held on Jan. 20. The spokesman said it would be a routine meeting following the agreement reached between the member countries — the United States, France, Britain, West Germany and Japan — in New York last September to cooperate in steering the dollar lower.

INSIDE

- * Iraq forced Iran to delay offensive, commander says, page 2
- * Draft electoral law presented to Lower House, page 3
- * Khater becomes political symbol in Egypt, page 4
- * Pope will bless tribal Christians next month, page 5
- * FIFA suspends Kuwait from international matches, page 6
- * India, Pakistan to bolster trade and communication, page 7
- * Two years South Africa may use nuclear arms, page 8

Jordan lodges strong protest at U.N. over Israeli action at Aqsa

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Jordan has lodged a strong protest at the United Nations against an attempt by a team of Israeli parliamentarians to enter the Haram Al Sharif area in occupied Jerusalem and described the Israeli move as a "provocative action against the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims."

In a note delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Jordan said the Israeli action was a link in a chain of plans aimed at obliterating Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement, delivered by Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N., Mr. Abdullah Salah, said that Jordan, while denouncing and strongly condemning the Israeli action, was deeply concerned about the dimension of such an aggressive action, which will not serve the peace and stability in the region.

The Israeli action, the note added, was in violation of international principles and laws which provide that an occupying power should refrain from interfering in the normal life of the civilian population under occupation. Such principles and laws also ban an occupying power from attacking places of worship and interfering in the freedom of worship in such places, it pointed out.

Mr. Salah requested the secretary-general to circulate the note

Worshippers banned from Al Aqsa

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Friday banned worshippers from attending prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

News reaching here from Jerusalem said that large numbers of Israeli soldiers were besieging the Ibrahim mosque area in Hebron since Wednesday. Israeli soldiers are also laying a siege on main mosques in West Bank cities and villages in fear of escalation by Arabs of their protest against the occupation and Israeli's violation of the sanctity of holy places. Israeli gangs have also stuck pamphlets on the walls of Jerusalem and other Arab cities threatening Arabs of killing and expulsion.

The OIC secretary-general for circulation among Islamic foreign ministers now meeting in Fez, Morocco.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat issued a statement in Amman condemning the Israeli action as criminal.

Mr. Khayyat said that such action contradicts international laws and defies the feelings of Muslim people. The minister urged all Arab and Islamic organisations to help the Arabs to defend their holy shrines in the face of the Israeli atrocities.

Amnesty to probe prisoner abuse by SLA and Israelis

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International, the worldwide human rights group, said on Friday it was seeking an inquiry into reports that prisoners were being abused at a prison controlled by Israel's allies in South Lebanon.

Israel says the prison is entirely controlled by the South Lebanese Army (SLA), which acts as Israel's proxy in the country. But Amnesty International said it had received reports that Israeli intelligence officers were supervising interrogations by SLA men which often involved torture.

It denied an Israeli Radio report that it had asked to visit prisoners at the lockup in Al Khiam, four kilometres north of the Israeli border with Lebanon. Spokesman David Laulich said the organisation had asked for independent bodies like the International Red Cross to visit the prisoners.

He said Amnesty International had asked its members worldwide to send appeals to Israeli and South Lebanon Army authorities for an inquiry.

Laulich said Amnesty International had not seen any of the prisoners, but had received "a number of reports whose consistency suggests a systematic pattern in the way detainees are treated in Al Khiam prison."

These reports said detainees were not subject to any kind of judicial process, were denied legal advice, were not formally charged, not brought before any court, given no right of appeal and no opportunity to answer the accusations against them, Laulich said.

"The information received by Amnesty International indicates that it is Israeli intelligence officers who decide who is to be

Peres pressing for early Taba solution

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was pressing on Friday for resolution to a longstanding border dispute which threatens Israel's peace accord with Egypt.

"We must guard against turning our first peace treaty into a failure," Peres told French Republican Party leader Francois Leonard, adding "we are very close to resolving our problems with Egypt."

A Labour Party official close to Peres said the premier gave top priority to resolving the issue and might be forced to cancel his three-nation European trip later this month if agreement could not be reached at a cabinet meeting scheduled for Sunday.

"It is shaping up as a showdown. But there have been so many previous crises that it is difficult to be certain" if the issue threatened the continued existence of Peres' fragile coalition government, the official said on

Cairo appeals against new autopsy in Khater case

CAIRO (AP) — The Egyptian government has appealed a court order for a new autopsy to determine if a former policeman convicted of killing seven Israelis committed suicide, a leading newspaper reported Friday.

The state-owned daily Al Ahram said the government's legal department filed two separate motions after a Cairo court on Thursday ordered the body of former Sgt. Salehman Khater exhumed and a second autopsy performed.

Legal sources said the government action would stay the exhumation pending a judicial review. Government officials were closed on Friday, and efforts to confirm the report were unsuccessful.

Lawyer Abdul Halim Ramadan, who asked for a second autopsy on behalf of Khater's family, said he was unaware of the appeals.

On Tuesday, the government announced that Khater, 24, had committed suicide in his prison

condition of anonymity.

The inner cabinet, equally divided between Peres' supporters and rightists led by Shamir, will meet again on Sunday to seek a united Israeli position on the issue, state radio said.

Peres wants to accept Egypt's call for the border dispute to go to arbitration. Shamir says Cairo should first improve relations and return its ambassador, withdrawn in protest after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Resolving a dispute over Taba, is considered essential to proving the durability of Israel's March 1979 treaty with Egypt and a prerequisite to further Mideast peace talks.

Peres, speaking Thursday night to supporters, said: "I warn against, heaven forbid, letting the first peace with Egypt turn into the last peace with an Arab country. Then I would see no chance for peace in our generation and the coming generations."

Some opposition groups within Egypt, as well as several organisations outside the country, have hailed Khater as a hero for killing the Israelis at his Sinai border post Oct. 5.

Announcement of his death triggered student demonstrations in Cairo and Zagazig.

Al Ahram said one government motion objected to the exhumation order on "substantive grounds" and the other raised "procedural objections" on which the newspaper did not elaborate.

Mr. Ramadan told the Associated Press he was surprised that the government would object to a new autopsy. Khaled Mohieddin, leader of the leftist National Progressive Unionist Party, had proposed that special committees made up of medical experts and political party representatives be formed to investigate Khater's death.



Palestinians and Israeli soldiers confront each other at Al Aqsa Mosque

Arabs to discuss Libya-U.S. conflict at end of January

FEZ, MOROCCO (R) — Arab foreign ministers agreed on Friday to hold a special meeting to discuss the bitter dispute between Libya and the United States. Bahrain's Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa said.

But they put off the date of the session until the end of January, he said.

Libya had requested an urgent meeting after the imposition of economic sanctions by the Reagan administration, asking that it be held next Tuesday in Tunis.

Most Arab foreign ministers are in Fez for the annual meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The 46-member OIC on Thursday approved a strongly-worded resolution condemning the U.S. measures against Libya and asking Washington to rescind them.

The Islamic group includes several of Washington's allies such as Turkey and Pakistan, and the condemnation of the U.S. moves was seen by diplomats as a success for Libya.

The declaration said the conference "condemns the measures decided by the government of the United States against Libya, which contravene international law and customs."

The meeting reaffirmed its "unqualified solidarity with Libya against these sanctions which infringe upon the sovereignty and independence of the peoples of Libya and also seek to undermine its economic and development plans."

"(The meeting) calls upon the government of the United States to rescind these oppressive economic measures, and reaffirms their illegality," the statement said.

"(It) calls upon the Islamic nations to take the necessary actions deemed appropriate to counter these oppressive American measures."

Although the Arab meeting will not be as soon as Libya requested, Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureiki told reporters on Friday: "I am fully satisfied with the solidarity expressed."

He said Libya was seeking concrete steps from the Arab World but declined to specify what these were.

Asked about reports that the Washington-Tripoli row over Libya's alleged support for terrorism had led to a sharp fall in the dollar, Mr. Tureiki said he thought the freezing of Libyan assets in the United States would hurt the U.S. economy.

"The United States has become a risk country," he said. "I think it will hurt the American economy. There is no guarantee there when the head of the administration can impose that kind of measure."

Thatcher opposes sanctions on Libya

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher resolutely refused on Friday to follow the United States in applying economic sanctions against Libya and rejected any anti-terrorist steps that defy international law.

During a 75-minute meeting with American correspondents, Mrs. Thatcher was asked whether she would join in sanctions similar to those imposed by the United States against Libya earlier this week. These included ordering U.S. companies and workers out of Libya and freezing Libyan government assets in the United States.

Mrs. Thatcher said "I do not think... sanctions against Libya would work. The materials would be supplied by other countries. In theory sanctions work, but they only work if adopted 100 per cent, and I don't know any place in which they have been adopted 100 per cent."

Mrs. Thatcher was asked what she would think of pre-emptive or retaliatory strikes to stem terrorism. She replied that these, as well as hot pursuit, were "contrary to international law."

She added, "Once one fails to observe the borders of other countries you will have much greater chaos."

Mrs. Thatcher said "I accept that terrorism is against international law, but you have to fight it with legal means."

U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said on Thursday the United States was near the "end of the rope" in applying economic pressure on Libya and would consider using force, if necessary, to counter what it says is state-sponsored terrorism by Libya.

Mr. Shultz is sending his deputy, John Whitehead, to Europe to try to persuade U.S. allies to support the American campaign to isolate Libya economically.

Mrs. Thatcher said her government would talk with Mr. Whitehead, but made it clear she would

not join in sanctions.

Italy has suspended arms sales to Libya following the U.S. call for global economic sanctions. Italian Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

The suspension will apply to all arms contracts signed between Italy and Libya, said the officials, who asked not to be identified. He said the two countries have concluded no arms sales contracts since 1981.

Foreign ministers of the 12 Common Market nations will meet on Jan. 21 to seek a joint position on the U.S. trade embargo of Libya, the chief West German government spokesman said Friday.

Friedhelm Ost said the European ministers' meeting will take place in The Hague, and that the ministers will also discuss ways to step up the fight against international terrorism.

The meeting was jointly called for by Italy and France, with the approval of West Germany. Ost told reporters at a press conference in Bonn.

A rare divergence of opinion has emerged between West Germany and the United States over the U.S. imposition of economic sanctions against Libya.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, one of the Washington's closest allies, is refusing to implement economic measures against Tripoli.

It is the first time that Bonn has openly differed with Washington over a major foreign policy question since Dr. Kohl became chancellor in October 1982.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has warned that continued threats by the United States against his country were pushing Libya toward communism and more cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Col. Qadhafi spoke to five Western women journalists, after a news conference at which he

(Continued on page 3)

Assad, Gemayel to hold key peace summit on Monday

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel will meet Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Monday to discuss growing Christian opposition to a militia peace agreement formally ending Lebanon's civil war, officials said Friday.

They said the date was fixed in contacts between Beirut and Damascus, but refused to comment on local radio reports that the two presidents spoke to each other by telephone on Friday.

Beirut radios said artillery and mortar shells slammed into hills overlooking Mr. Gemayel's palace as militiamen and army troops exchanged fire, but no casualties were reported.

Presidential sources told Reuters Mr. Gemayel, who has withheld outright support for the Syrian-backed accord, was expected to explain to Mr. Assad why some Christian leaders oppose it.

Syria has also called leaders of Lebanon's three strongest militias to Damascus for urgent talks on Friday to set a timetable implementing the peace pact.

The Syrian move, apparently aimed at speeding up the stalled peace process, came amid widening Christian opposition to the accord signed in Damascus Dec. 28.

Militia sources told the AP senior negotiators of the three main militias who signed the accord were summoned for a meeting with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, the pact's architect.

Beirut radio said the main item on the Gemayel-Assad summit agenda will be the formation of a coalition cabinet in Beirut to oversee the armistice and introduce political reforms giving Muslims an equal share of power with the traditionally dominant Christians.

Under Lebanon's constitution, only Mr. Gemayel, as head of state, can dissolve the current nine-man cabinet of Prime Minister Rashid Karami and decree the formation of a new government.

But the Maronite Catholic president has been reluctant to endorse the pact because it curbs his powers and because he was not consulted by Syria during negotiations with his militia rivals.

The pact was signed by Walid Junblat for the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Justice Minister Nabih Berri for the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement, and Elie Hobeika for the "Lebanese Forces," the mostly Christian rightist militia.

Heseltine steps up Westland campaign after resigning from Thatcher cabinet

LONDON (R) — Just 24 hours after his resignation as defence secretary, Michael Heseltine on Friday stepped up his campaign for a European rescue operation to save Britain's ailing Westland helicopter firm.

At a London news conference he made an 11th-hour appeal for Westland shareholders to reject a rival bid by the American-Italian partnership of Sikorsky and Fiat when they hold a crucial meeting next Tuesday.

The future of Britain's only helicopter company was at the heart of Mr. Heseltine's decision to quit Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in which he had fought a lone campaign for a European rather than an American way out of Westland's troubles.

Virtually acting as a spokesman for the European consortium seeking a 29.9 per cent stake in Westland, Mr. Heseltine used the news conference to urge pro-Sikorsky shareholders to change their minds and file fresh votes by proxy.

The £75 million (\$108 million)



Michael Heseltine

European offer was strengthened by one major shareholder antagonistic to the Sikorsky option, which is favoured by the Westland board.

Alan Bristow, who made a bid for Westland last year but then withdrew it, raised his holdings from three to 10.5 per cent in a move that could affect the outcome of Tuesday's meeting.

He spent \$4.8 million (\$6.8 million) to boost his holdings on Thursday and now has enough shares to influence the 75 per cent

vote needed for approval of the Sikorsky deal, worth £74 million (\$103.6 million).

"I hope shareholders will now rally round me," he said. "The European offer is undoubtedly the better one."

Mr. Heseltine steadfastly refused on Friday to answer questions about the political controversy surrounding his walkout from the Thatcher cabinet, saying: "This is forbidden territory."

He also declined to be drawn into criticism of the Westland board.

Mr. Heseltine put the familiar case that a link with European companies would fit better into a developing pattern of European collaboration, whereas in the Sikorsky deal Westland might lose its own design capacity.

As defence secretary he won many admirers on the continent by the purposeful part he played in two years of negotiations on the European fighter aircraft programme, a £10 billion (\$14 billion) project linking companies in Britain, West Germany, Italy and France.

Iraq forced Iran to delay offensive, commander says

THIRD ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Southern Iraq (R) — Iraq has retaken from Iran most of the oil-rich Majnoon Islands and forced Tehran to postpone a planned Gulf war ground offensive, an Iraqi general said.

"We have kicked the enemy out of the biggest part of the islands and cornered him in a small area, which will be dealt with in the near future," Maj. Gen. Maher Abed Al Rashid, the Third Army Corps commander, told reporters visiting the front Thursday.

Iran captured the desolate islands, north of the southern Iraqi Gulf port of Basra, early in 1984. It said at the time there were some 50 oil wells on Majnoon, believed to stand on deposits estimated to be worth billions of dollars.

Gen. Rashid, speaking at his headquarters on the Shatt Al Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf, said the area was recaptured during a surprise attack on Monday.

Reporters taken deep inside

Majnoon, north of the Iraqi Gulf port of Basra, saw advanced Iranian positions through binoculars. The two sides exchanged a few artillery barrages and heavy machinegun fire was heard from the northern part.

Of a big Iranian troop build-up on the southern front, in an area of the Hawzab Marshes near Majnoon, Gen. Rashid said: "Our powerful deterrent force made them postpone the offensive."

Gen. Rashid, whose army corps is one of four defending southern Iraq, said the air force had played a major role in breaking up enemy concentrations.

President Saddam Hussein said in a speech on Monday that any fresh Iranian offensive would end in catastrophe for Tehran's leaders.

A high command communiqué the same day said two brigades from the Third Army Corps had launched a surprise attack and liberated several kilometres of territory, killing hundreds of Iranians and wounding many more.

Gen. Rashid put the recaptured area at three kilometres wide and 8.5 kilometres long, adding that other parts of the islands were retaken in three attacks last year.

An aide to the general said the total area of the islands was 4.5 kilometres by 10 kilometres.

Gen. Rashid did not give his side's casualty figures for Monday's attack, but said Iranian shelling had killed two Iraqis and wounded seven in rear lines.

Reporters taken to the islands in fast-moving jeeps passed dozens of earth roads built by the Iraqi army and government workers. A few Iranian shells fell either side of the roads.

An Iranian mortar bomb fell in marsh water about 300 metres from Gen. Rashid when he stopped his jeep near Majnoon to

explain the position to the reporters.

Iraq has brought up hundreds of trucks, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment to build roads across the marsh waters and to dry areas around the Majnoon oil fields.

A brigadier with the group said engineering squads had dried hundreds of square kilometres in the Hawzab Marshes and built dozens of roads in the area.

The brigadier, who did not give his name, said: "We brought huge pumps to pump the marsh waters from our side to the Iranian side, thus flooding the enemy and paving the way for our army to counter his moves."

The reporters saw a high earthenwork structure stretching into the distance, which the brigadier said was aimed at hampering enemy movements.

Returning from Majnoon, reporters were driven close to two oil wells in the Ghuzayl area, which the brigadier said had been recaptured from Iranian troops in recent weeks.

Howe's Gulf tour to focus on Mideast

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe leaves Saturday on a visit to Gulf Arab states which will focus on the Middle East peace process and the war between Iran and Iraq.

Government sources said the four-day visit to Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would also provide Sir Geoffrey with an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations between Britain and the three Arab states, which are major buyers of British arms.

The Foreign Office said Sir Geoffrey would meet his opposite numbers in the three states and also call on Saudi King Fahd.

Britain has said it remains keen to help promote peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours despite Sir Geoffrey's decision last October to cancel talks with two leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

During the visit Sir Geoffrey will reiterate Britain's desire for a negotiated settlement to the war between Iran and Iraq.

Britain has in the past drawn criticism from Iraq and its Gulf allies for selling arms to Iran.

While publicly taking a neutral line on the war, it has supplied Iran with two naval support ships and military spare parts since the war broke out in 1980.

The three Gulf states, fearing a spill-over of the Iran-Iraq war, have repeatedly called on Tehran and Baghdad to end their hostilities through peaceful negotiations.

Arab diplomats said Sir Geoffrey was expected to receive approval from the Gulf states for Britain's refusal this week to join the United States in economic sanctions against Libya.

Soviets set to boost profile in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — A top Soviet defence team will arrive in Kuwait Saturday, boosting Moscow's profile in the Gulf amid mounting Arab disenchantment with the United States.

Deputy Defence Minister Gen. Vladimir Govorov will lead the highest-ranking defence team sent to Kuwait, until recently the only member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to have diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Weeks after Oman agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Moscow, the Soviet Union and the United Arab Emirates said in November they would exchange ambassadors. Gulf-based diplomats have suggested that Bahrain and Qatar might follow.

These states, along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, comprise the GCC, which has become one of the world's largest markets for arms since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Apart from Kuwait, a big buyer of Soviet arms, GCC states are equipped mainly by Britain, France and the United States.

Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, said he

would discuss "military affairs, especially armaments" with Gen. Govorov.

The Kuwait News Agency, KUNA, said the Soviet team would "examine the suitability of advanced Soviet-made weaponry to the needs of the Kuwaiti army."

But diplomats said this did not necessarily mean new arms deals. The two sides might merely review the performance of equipment already sold to Kuwait, they added.

In Moscow last August, Sheikh Salem arranged a deal to boost mainly air defences, which KUNA reported was worth more than \$300 million.

The diplomats said Gen. Govorov was expected to show interest in progress towards a joint GCC strike force set up over the past year to combat threats to Gulf security. The force has no collective arsenal.

Syria to elect new parliament

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria will elect a new People's Council (parliament) on Feb. 10 under a presidential decree issued Thursday night.

The National Progressive Front, a coalition of four parties dominated by the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, held all 195 seats in the outgoing parliament, chosen in 1981.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was re-elected separately to a third seven-year term last April. He was the only candidate.

The agency gave no explanation for the delay in holding a general election. It said candidates have one week to register starting Saturday.

The Baath Party has been in power since 1963.

Mr. Assad can veto laws passed by the People's Council.

Velotes optimistic about Egyptian-Israeli ties

CAIRO (R) — Outgoing U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Velotes said Friday he was optimistic there would soon be a development to improve relations between Israel and Egypt, the only Arab state to have ties with the Jewish state.

Mr. Velotes, speaking to reporters here three days after his resignation was announced, gave no details.

He appeared to be forecasting an accord on how to settle the dispute between Israel and Egypt over the Gulf of Aqaba enclave of Tabia, which the Israelis retained when they withdrew from the rest of Sinai in 1982.

Egypt sees international arbitration of the Tabia row as vital to ease strained ties but the Israeli cabinet is divided on whether to accept this approach.

The U.S., which brokered the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treat-

ty, has sent observers to sit in on several rounds of talks on Tabia. Mr. Velotes, who retired in April after 31 years as a diplomat to head the Association of American Publishers, endorsed U.S. official denials of reports that he was quitting because of rows with the U.S. or Egyptian governments.

He said he had some differences on tactics but "no significant policy differences" with Washington while George Shultz had been secretary of state.

Mr. Velotes, 57, acknowledged there was a "rocky period" in U.S.-Egyptian relations after the hijack last October of a liner, the Achille Lauro, and the U.S. action in forcing down an Egyptian plane carrying the Palestinian hijackers.

He said relations were now "very good and very strong."

Iran seeks to recover parts for U.S.-made jets

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Iran has filed a complaint with the international court at the Hague to try to recover fighter jet spare parts it claims the United States had stolen, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

IRNA, monitored here, quoted an unnamed senior official at Iran's Office for International Law Services as saying that Iran was seeking the return of spare parts for U.S.-made F-14 warplanes.

The complaint alleges that the spare parts were "robbed" by agents of the U.S. government from a warehouse where they were being stored, the IRNA said.

It said that the equipment should have been turned over to Iran under the so-called Algerian Accord, which is the Algerian-brokered agreement that ended the one-year hostage ordeal in Tehran for 52 Americans on Jan. 20, 1981.

Iran contends that the United States "refused to release the spare parts under the pretext of being military equipment" and later removed them from the warehouse where they were in storage.

The IRNA report did not give details on the volume or value of the goods.

The United States had banned trade with Iran and had frozen Iranian assets in the United States during the hostage crisis.

As part of the Algerian-brokered agreement, it freed most of the financial assets and set up a procedure through the court at the Hague to settle commercial claims on both sides.

Iran had been a major purchaser of U.S. weaponry during the regime of the late Iranian Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, prior

to the 1979 formation of the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Experts say that the lack of spare parts for its weaponry, such as fighter jets, has hampered Iran's efforts to fight Iraq. The neighbouring countries have been at war for more than five years.

Meanwhile the Iranian parliament Thursday voted to stiffen conditions of national service, approving a bill that all drafted soldiers should spend one year in operational zones on the Gulf war front or in north western Kurdistan.

Speakers said they wanted amendments to the law to prevent people from using influence to secure soft postings for relatives in Tehran or provincial cities.

The chief of the draft board, Col. Khalil Razmjou, told Eteelaat newspaper this week the amendments were also intended to make life more difficult for draft-dodgers.

After a three-month grace period, Col. Razmjou said men who failed to register would have to serve three to six months extra in the armed forces after they were caught.

Police had been ordered to seek out, arrest and imprison for up to three years anybody employing such a person during wartime, he said.

Young men who have not registered for national service cannot receive diplomas or degrees, get a business permit, leave the country or be employed by the government in any capacity.

Boys cannot normally leave Iran after the beginning of the year in which they become 15, and unless further education is undertaken national service starts in the year they turn 19.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria executes 2 for spying

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has executed two brothers for spying for Israel, diplomatic sources have said. An official source said Nafeh Fuad Hassa, 26, was publicly hanged for "spying and supplying to the Israeli enemy information detrimental to Syria's security and military and economic establishment." The diplomatic sources said he was the brother of Faisal Fuad Hassan, 48, who was executed Wednesday, also for spying for Israel. Both men were Circassians from the Hama region, they said. Details of the charges against them were not known.

Israel gives life sentence to Arab

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court has sentenced a Palestinian from the occupied West Bank town of Hebron to life imprisonment for stabbing to death an Israeli soldier and wounding another, military officials said. The soldiers were attacked four months ago while guarding a house taken over by ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers in the heart of the Arab town, a flashpoint of Jewish-Arab tension. The army identified the convicted Palestinian as Hanis Said Jabir, 21. The court also sentenced Nassar Abido to nine years imprisonment for hurling 10 fire bombs in anti-Israel protests in the West Bank. One fire bomb hit a reserve soldier and another damaged a tour bus.

Israel urges S. Lebanese to return home

TEL AVIV (AP) — Presidents of a South Lebanese Shi'ite village who fled the area last month have been asked to return home, Israeli Foreign Ministry sources said Friday. The village, Kounine, lies inside Israel's self-declared "security belt" north of its border with Lebanon. Several houses in the village were destroyed last month by Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia after two SLA officers were killed and an Israeli army liaison officer wounded in firing from a house on the outskirts of Kounine. Many of Kounine's 400 residents, fearing further bloodshed, fled to seek shelter north of the zone.

Rome gunman back in prison

ROME (R) — Mohammad Sharam, the only survivor of the four gunmen who attacked Rome airport last month, was transferred from a military hospital to a top-security prison Wednesday night, police sources said. Sharam, who underwent surgery at Rome's Celio Military Hospital, was taken to a prison with medical facilities. He sustained gunshot wounds during the Dec. 27 attack, which killed 16 people including three of the attacking gunmen. The location of the prison was not disclosed.

U.S. actions 'have strengthened Qadhafi's hand'

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States, which had considered military retaliation against Libya for backing "terrorism," has resorted once again to economic sanctions which few analysts think will be effective.

Critics say the Reagan administration, by openly discussing a military option it would not carry out, has actually strengthened the hand of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi — the man Washington accuses of aiding the gunmen who attacked Rome and Vienna airports 12 days ago.

"It has been a mindless course, not coherent, not thought out," Former Reagan foreign policy aide Joseph Church, a Middle East specialist, said of the U.S. reaction to the attacks.

The trade curbs President Reagan announced Tuesday night had a familiar ring. In 1982 he banned imports of Libyan crude oil and cut U.S. exports to Libya. In 1984 he expanded those curbs, and now he has expanded them again.

U.S. officials say the earlier measures were not effective in deterring Col. Qadhafi from supporting what Washington denounces as "terrorism."

Critics such as Jim Phillips a Middle East analyst for the conservative Heritage Foundation, doubt that Mr. Reagan's new measures will have much impact either.

Phillips told Reuters: "American economic and diplomatic clout has been used up in past crises. The tragedy is that the Europeans, who have the economic leverage, are not using it."

NEWS ANALYSIS

America's European allies have high economic stakes in Libya and tens of thousands of citizens working there who they fear could become hostages. The Europeans are unlikely to back a concerted sanctions programme, Western diplomats say.

Retired Adm. Eugene Carroll, deputy director of the liberal Centre for Defence Information, said of Mr. Reagan's new sanctions programme: "I expect it to be

humiliating. We can't lead where others won't follow, and we are going to look absolutely foolish."

Washington's decision to employ sanctions followed extended debate and soul-searching on whether to launch air strikes against Libya following the Dec. 27 airport killings.

U.S. warships steamed toward Libya, and the Defence Department drew up lists of possible bombing targets.

But President Reagan said he would only strike if those responsible for the killings could be found and no innocent lives lost — conditions which evidently were not met.

Another consideration was the risk of losing planes, as happened in 1983 when two bombers were downed in Lebanon while on a mission against anti-U.S. militia targets.

There was also the risk that Col. Qadhafi would escalate the cycle of violence. He said this week that suicide squads stood ready to kill Americans if Libya were struck.

Churba is among those who say that, by threatening to attack Col. Qadhafi, Washington allowed him

to score a major propaganda coup and shore up support.

The Arab League, some of whose members have accused Col. Qadhafi of seeking to undermine their governments, rallied to his defence this week and denounced U.S. military moves.

Churba told Reuters that the threat of attack had given Col. Qadhafi a chance to rally support which had been eroding among the Libyan middle classes, armed forces and Muslim clergy, thus undermining exiled opponents who would like to oust him.

Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen wrote Tuesday that Moscow had reacted more intelligently than the United States to "terrorism" when four Kremlin diplomats were kidnapped and one killed in Beirut last year. Moscow may or may not have sought to avenge the killings, but it made no idle threats.

"Not so the United States. It beats its chest like King Kong on the Empire State building (but) mostly has made Qadhafi's day. He sits tall in the saddle," Cohen concluded.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

MAIN CHANNEL

18:00 News
18:10 Cartoons
18:20 Children's programme
18:30 Different Stories
18:40 News
18:50 News
19:00 News
19:10 News
19:20 News
19:30 News
19:40 News
19:50 News
20:00 News
20:10 News
20:20 News
20:30 News
20:40 News
20:50 News
21:00 News
21:10 News
21:20 News
21:30 News
21:40 News
21:50 News
22:00 News
22:10 News
22:20 News
22:30 News
22:40 News
22:50 News
23:00 News
23:10 News
23:20 News
23:30 News
23:40 News
23:50 News
24:00 News

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme: Ecole des

18:10 les grands travaux de l'archéologie

18:20 News in French

18:30 News in Hebrew

18:40 News in Arabic

18:50 News in Arabic

19:00 News in Arabic

19:10 News in Arabic

19:20 News in Arabic

19:30 News in Arabic

19:40 News in Arabic

19:50 News in Arabic

20:00 News in Arabic

20:10 News in Arabic

20:20 News in Arabic

20:30 News in Arabic

20:40 News in Arabic

20:50 News in Arabic

21:00 News in Arabic

21:10 News in Arabic

21:20 News in Arabic

21:30 News in Arabic

21:40 News in Arabic

21:50 News in Arabic

22:00 News in Arabic

22:10 News in Arabic

22:20 News in Arabic

22:30 News in Arabic

22:40 News in Arabic

22:50 News in Arabic

23:00 News in Arabic

23:10 News in Arabic

23:20 News in Arabic

23:30 News in Arabic

23:40 News in Arabic

23:50 News in Arabic

24:00 News in Arabic

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

18:00 News
18:10 News
18:20 News
18:30 News
18:40 News
18:50 News
19:00 News
19:10 News
19:20 News
19:30 News
19:40 News
19:50 News
20:00 News
20:10 News
20:20 News
20:30 News
20:40 News
20:50 News
21:00 News
21:10 News
21:20 News
21:30 News
21:40 News
21:50 News
22:00 News
22:10 News
22:20 News
22:30 News
22:40 News
22:50 News
23:00 News
23:10 News
23:20 News
23:30 News
23:40 News
23:50 News
24:00 News

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of old times newspapers, "Le Temps des Indes" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).

CINEMA

"Alphaville" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267

American Centre, Tel. 644371

Armenian Centre, Tel. 641520

British Centre, Tel. 6361478

French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637009

Georgian Institute, Tel. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre, Tel. 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre, Tel. 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre, Tel. 639777

Hebrew Arts Centre, Tel. 665195

Hebrew Youth City, Tel. 667181/6

Y.W.C.A., Tel. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A., Tel. 664251

Armenian Municipal Library, Tel. 637111

University of Jordan Library, Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Pollara Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). Closed Tuesday.

The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Hasan ibn Ali (10th century) and the Aqaba. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Closed Tuesday). Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

Good Tuesday. Tel. 630128.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Air information department at Tel. 63200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Regent urges support for Arab economy in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Thursday urged all Arab countries to extend support to the Arab economy in the Israeli-occupied territories to enable Arab breadwinners to expel the Arab inhabitants and confiscate their land.

The Crown Prince said that the Zionist enemy is intent on carrying out projects entailing listing the assets of Arab land and evicting the Arab people from their homeland, and these plans can only be stopped through supporting the Arab economy to enable the local inhabitants to cling to their homeland.

Prince Hassan said in a message held at the University of Jordan with a group of distinguished students and university president Abdul Salam Al Majali.

He said that Arab investments in the occupied Arab territory and helping Palestinians to market their national products in the Arab world would enhance the Arab cause and bolster Arab steadfastness in the face of Israeli aggression, Prince Hassan added.

He said that confronting the challenges and dangers threatening the Arabs requires participation by all sectors of the public in

fulfilling this national responsibility. Prince Hassan also asserted that the lessons of the past can help in shaping strategic plans for the future.

The Crown Prince pointed to the fact that Jordan's economic growth registered 11.5 per cent over the past decade, a rate considered among the highest in the world, but he added that Jordan's economic growth continues to be hampered by the difficulty in obtaining easy long-term loans to finance economic and social projects.

Jordan has to examine all options available to it in order to confront this basic problem, Prince Hassan said. Jordan must protect its arable land, stop migration from rural to urban regions, and make a wise redistribution of manpower in its endeavour to adjust to current economic circumstances.

Prince Hassan told the students that the educational curricula in Jordan is currently under revision for the purpose of developing new subject matter to be offered to students in schools and universities. He urged students to diversify sources of their knowledge and intensify their research efforts. He also discussed a number of local and regional topics with the students.

Budget provides JD 70,000 for expatriate youth division

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan budget law has provided for granting JD 70,000 to the newly established Division of the Expatriate-Jordanian Youth Affairs at the Youth Ministry to enable it to cover the costs of the services it renders to Jordanian youths abroad.

The division was established in

1985 to facilitate the Jordanian government's interests, in providing the necessary care for our youth abroad.

The report said that 833 letters have been received from Jordanian youths abroad, in which they stressed the importance of continuous contact with their country.

Lawzi reports an 'identity of views' with Egypt after trip

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi has returned to Amman at the end of a week-long visit to Egypt and said he was carrying a message from President Hosni Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein. The message was in response to one carried to Mr. Mubarak by Mr. Lawzi and his accompanying parliamentary delegation.

In a statement upon returning to Amman, Mr. Lawzi said he held talks with the members of the Egyptian Shoura and People's Councils, members and their speakers, Dr. Sobhi Abdul Hakim and Dr. Rifaa Mahjoub, as well as Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi, Egyptian National Democratic

Party Secretary General Dr. Yusef Wali and the Egyptian minister of transport and communications.

The Egyptian government and people view King Hussein's national policies with deep appreciation and voice total support for Jordan's endeavours, Mr. Lawzi said in his statement.

The talks revealed an identity of views between Jordan and Egypt in all fields, Mr. Lawzi added.

He was accompanied on the visit by a delegation that included Upper House members Walid Salahi, Hikmat Al Masri, Zoukan Al Hindawi, Jumaa Hammad, Nayef Al Khreisha, and Hayel Surur.

Amman: Some aesthetic recommendations

By Josephine Zamaniri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although a city of surprising contrasts and wonderful architectural oddities, Amman will always remain a place of beauty due to its existing natural landscape. Though experts maintain the city is situated on seven hills, the inexperienced eye would estimate a hundred and several, as in every direction gentle contours, sharp inclines, and rugged cliff faces punctuate the skyline. Man's manufactured additions have not been distributed in a nice way, you will see a beautiful old building and next to it a high rise structure.

All three see the rapid expansion of the city as the cause of many of the problems currently besetting the city.

The urban texture has a certain degree of monotony, especially in the new areas, says Mr. Toukan. He attributes the problem to inadequate planning and the incompetence of architects and engineers. "There is little control on the design quality of buildings and the design experience of architects is limited. Town planning has all too frequently been carried out by the unqualified and unimaginative." This has deprived the city of both "open space and an exciting skyline," he added.

Mr. Toukan cited lack of maintenance as a serious problem affecting the Amman's appearance, pointing in particular to poorly constructed pavement. Landscaping was also not given proper attention by city planners. Cutting costs on projects nearly always leaves landscaping plans first, leaving what Toukan described as "empty dust bowls."

Mrs. Zaru looked at Amman with the practised eye of an artist. "The beauty of a city lies in the distribution of its elements," she says. "In Amman space and man-made development are often in conflict. The fast expansion of the city is largely responsible for the present dilemma, she adds.

"Space is lacking," she said, "and space is needed to relax the eye and for people to breathe in."

Both Mr. Toukan and Mrs. Zaru agree that Amman lacks a green environment. Mrs. Habib pointed out that recently Amman Municipality began a programme to plant a huge number of trees, bushes and shrubs.

Mrs. Habib maintained that Amman lacks homogeneity, as houses and buildings are in many

natural sites and an appropriate climate to create a green environment," Mrs. Zaru added that "the city has a unique physical structure, however, some man-made additions have not been distributed in a nice way, you will see a beautiful old building and next to it a high rise structure."

All three see the rapid expansion of the city as the cause of many of the problems currently besetting the city.

The urban texture has a certain degree of monotony, especially in the new areas, says Mr. Toukan. He attributes the problem to inadequate planning and the incompetence of architects and engineers. "There is little control on the design quality of buildings and the design experience of architects is limited. Town planning has all too frequently been carried out by the unqualified and unimaginative." This has deprived the city of both "open space and an exciting skyline," he added.

Mr. Toukan cited lack of maintenance as a serious problem affecting the Amman's appearance, pointing in particular to poorly constructed pavement. Landscaping was also not given proper attention by city planners. Cutting costs on projects nearly always leaves landscaping plans first, leaving what Toukan described as "empty dust bowls."

Mrs. Zaru looked at Amman with the practised eye of an artist. "The beauty of a city lies in the distribution of its elements," she says. "In Amman space and man-made development are often in conflict. The fast expansion of the city is largely responsible for the present dilemma, she adds.

"Space is lacking," she said, "and space is needed to relax the eye and for people to breathe in."

Both Mr. Toukan and Mrs. Zaru agree that Amman lacks a green environment. Mrs. Habib pointed out that recently Amman Municipality began a programme to plant a huge number of trees, bushes and shrubs.

Mrs. Habib maintained that Amman lacks homogeneity, as houses and buildings are in many



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, (centre) speaks to a group of distinguished students at the University of Jordan on Thursday. University President Abdul Salam Al Majali is on the left (Petra photo).

Kayed returns from Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed returned to Amman Thursday following a five-day official visit to Syria where he discussed matters for facilitating travel and border crossing procedures along the common Jordan-Syrian border.

The minister said in a statement that his talks with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghabash and other Syrian officials were positive and covered a number of related topics of concern to Jordan and Syria.

Mr. Kayed was also received by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during his visit, on which he was accompanied by Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Irbid and Mafrq gov-

ernors, the director of Badia police, and the director of his office.

"My talks with Mr. Ghabash were held in a brotherly atmosphere and covered all matters related to travel across the common border by Jordanian and Syrian nationals, and the outcome of the talks were positive," the minister said.

He said that he extended an invitation to Mr. Ghabash to visit Jordan and the Syrian minister accepted. The date of the trip will be fixed later.

Mr. Kayed returned to Jordan via the border post of Ramtha, where he was met by senior officials and Syria's charge d'affaires in Jordan.

Arab hosts of Palestinian refugees to meet in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting by Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees scheduled to open in Tunis on Monday, according to an official announcement released here Friday.

It said that Jordan's delegation to the week-long meeting will be led by Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Under Secretary Ahmad Qatanani, who will leave for the Tunisian capital on Sunday.

In Tunis the delegation will submit five working papers dealing with the condition of Palestinian refugees in Arab countries hosting them, Jordan's contribution to the refugees over the past five years — which last year alone exceeded \$108 million, amounting to 40 per cent of the budget allocated for the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA's financial position and current attempts to cover UNRWA's recurrent deficit, economic conditions in Israel and their negative effect on the Arab people in the occupied territories, and emigration of Jews from Israel.

Earlier, Dr. Mohammad Al Farra, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, stated in Tunis that the meeting will also discuss Israel's plans to demolish Palestinian refugee camps at Ain Al Sultan, Aqabat Jaber and Jabr Al Faribin in occupied Jericho on the West Bank a report on various developments in the Palestine issue, Israel's repressive measures against the Arab inhabitants and the recently revealed attempts to seize Arab land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,

Arab health ministers to assist in founding new West Bank hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab health ministers decided at their meeting in Muscat to extend help to local societies in the occupied Arab territories to help them establish

a hospital to serve as a substitute to the Jerusalem Hospice hospital, which was closed down by the Israeli authorities last year, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh

House receives draft electoral law; debates committee membership and recommendation referral methods

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A newly-proposed electoral draft law which promises wide-ranging reforms of the 1960 law and which calls for doubling the Lower House of Parliament's membership to 130 deputies was presented by the cabinet to the House on Thursday.



Speaker of the Lower House Akel Al Fayed during Thursday's meeting of Parliament (Petra photo).

The new elections law, which opens the door for a larger sector of the population to vote for Parliament and also includes a number of important points which recognise the recent economic and political development in Jordan, was referred by the Lower House to its legal committee, for in depth consideration.

Under the new law, which was promised by His Majesty King Hussein in his speech from the throne on Parliament's reconvening last November, the voting age will be fixed at 19 instead of 20 to grant a larger sector of Jordanians the right to vote, and the present 60-member House will be doubled to 130, including representatives from the East and West Banks of Jordan.

The law will also cover the entire parliamentary process, from the registration of voters to the announcement of election results, and represents a complete and total reform of the existing 1960 law.

Deputising for Parliament's general secretary, Mr. Mohammad Al Qariouiti read out the cabinet's memorandum, which said that 150 copies of the electoral law have been delivered to Parliament members.

During Thursday's Lower House session, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai stressed that Jordan has launched moves to alert the international community and world institutions of Israel's attacks on Al Haram Al Sharif.

Mr. Rifai made these comments in response to a request from the newly-elected Hebron Deputy Wahid Al Jaabari, who urged the government to "take necessary measures to denounce the Wednesday Israeli attacks on the holy shrine at Al Haram Al Sharif and its surrounding areas."

Thursday's session was presided over by House Speaker Akel Al Fayed and deputies engaged in short debates on allowing the

newly-elected West Bank deputies to join some of the temporary committees and on the necessity of distinguishing between the House's legislative powers and the executive power whenever the House passes any recommendations.

Deputy Miftah Al Ourallah pointed out the importance of having the new West Bank representatives to join the House's temporary and permanent committees which were formed prior to their election in December.

Mr. Ourallah's proposal, which was opposed by Mr. Fayed and other House deputies, nominated Issa Akel from Ramallah to join the Financial, Agriculture and Occupied Territories Affairs committees.

Tahseen Al Faris from Nablus to join the House's Agriculture and Occupied Territories Affairs committees, Hebron Deputy Wahid Al Jaabari to join the Legal, Financial, and Occupied Territories Affairs committees and Tulkarm Deputy Farouq Al Hamdallah to join the Agriculture and Occupied Territories Affairs committees.

Deputies who objected to Mr. Ourallah's suggestion claimed that the addition of new committee members will only complicate their regular meetings which are already hindered by the absence of the required quorum for their meetings.

Speaker Fayed supported those deputies who preferred not to accept new committee members and urged deputies to adhere to the committee's appointed meeting hours.

House Administrative Committee Rapporteur Nazih Ammarin explained his committee's recommendations on moving the cattle market from its current premises at Al Taibeh to Al Quwaimseh area and also referred to the government 21 suggestions made by various deputies.

The committee formed a sub-committee which includes deputies Khaled Al Fayyad and Yusef Al Athem to inspect the Halal market, and to listen to merchants complaints. The committee requested that Mr. Fayed ask Mr. Rifai to postpone the cabinet's decision for another month.

Immediately after Dr. Ammarin completed reading his committee's recommendations, the prime minister said that the cabinet had not taken any decision which calls for removing the Halal market to Quwaimseh. "To correct your information, it was the Amman Municipality which urged the cattle merchants to move from their premises to the new area, but I will extend the municipality's cattle market shift until Feb. 1."

Later, Deputy Daoud Daoud pointed out the importance of distinguishing between the recommendations which have been adopted by the House and referred to the cabinet and those which have been shelved, and he urged all committee rapporteurs to give valid reasons for referring any suggestions to the cabinet.

Mr. Fayed's explanation that the administrative committee recommends all suggestions it thinks are logical and restores others which are less significant prompted outspoken Deputy Laith Shbeilat to criticise Mr.

Fayed and the administrative committee, and he said "in harmony with our internal policy order, all suggestions should be presented to the government."

Mr. Shbeilat pointed out that the committee should discuss any complaint it receives and formulate suggestions, but in other issues, the committee's role becomes secretarial.

Urging the deputies to be more "realistic and objective in stating their suggestions," he said "the government has no time to study all of your recommendations, which are sometimes meaningless and sometimes logical."

House Legal Committee Rapporteur Salman Al Qudab, who interrupted and said "all our recommendations are referred to the cabinet, but not all of them should be approved; rather, we assist the executive body in studying the possibilities of adopting our recommendations," he added.

Mr. Qudab earlier read two suggestions made by deputies Yusef Al Athem and Farah Abu Jaber on increasing the salaries of municipality heads and imposing comprehensive automobile insurance plans on all Jordanian owners.

Mr. Qudab also read out the Legal Committee's deliberations on four laws, which were later approved by the House.

These were the National Geographic Centre (NGC) in Jordan, the Housing Corporation, the criminal courts, and a temporary law no.37 of 1977 on approving an oil exploitation agreement between the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the French company Filon.

Mr. Shbeilat urged the legal committee to be more analytical when studying future laws of the oil exploitation calibre, so that the House can use such approved agreement as "a model" for approving future similar arrangements.

Members of the Lower House of Parliament listen to debate at Thursday's session (Petra photo).

Mr. Shbeilat urged the legal committee to be more analytical when studying future laws of the oil exploitation calibre, so that the House can use such approved agreement as "a model" for approving future similar arrangements.



Members of the Lower House of Parliament listen to debate at Thursday's session (Petra photo).

Thatcher refuses sanctions against Libya

(Continued from page 1)

pledged to renew efforts to remove the United States from the Mediterranean.

He said he believed Washington was still considering a military strike against Libya and that he would unite with the world's liberation movements to remove U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean.

Col. Qadhafi also left open the question of possible retaliation by Libya for the economic blockade imposed by Washington. Asked if he planned to freeze U.S. assets in Libya he said: "This is being studied."

"What is behind all this is a flagrant and pointed disregard for the sovereignty of states and for their right to organise as they

wish," Mr. Shevardnadze said at a Kremlin banquet for visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic.

Cairo appeals against autopsy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Ramadan accused the government of stalling until too much time had passed for a second autopsy. Khater was buried on Wednesday in his home village in the Nile Delta.

"With the lapse of time and the body buried in the ground, it will disintegrate, and it will become

impossible to ascertain the cause of death," Mr. Ramadan said. Student demonstrators burned the Israeli flag and demanded an end to Egypt's ties with the Jewish state.

Travellers from Nile Delta villages near Khater's home village of Ikiad said a procession of thousands followed his coffin.

Amnesty to probe prisoner abuse

(Continued from page 1)

released and when," Laulich told the Associated Press.

He said a number of former detainees had described being hooded and handcuffed, forced to spend up to two days standing in the open air, interrogated for one to four weeks, kicked and beaten with electric cables, wooden batons and rifle butts.

They described groups of four or five people being stripped, doused with water and then given electric shocks to sensitive parts of the body, Laulich said.

They say they are questioned about whether they have participated in military operations, pressed for information about resistance forces or urged to col-

laborate with the Israeli army, Laulich said.

He said prisoners report "that it is members of the SLA who carry out the ill-treatment. But they report that it is Israeli intelligence officers who direct the interrogation."

Freedom for the prisoners is demanded by the "Organisation for the Oppressed on Earth," a Lebanese group which has claimed responsibility for killing two Lebanese Jews.

SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahd announced through Israeli military officials Jan. 2 that he had freed 20 captives held at Al Khiam. Israeli officials say about 100 prisoners remain, most of them suspected of participating in attacks on SLA militiamen.

Pope will bless tribal Christians by saying 'Khublei'

By Brahms Chellaney
The Associated Press

SHILLONG, India — Pope Paul II will say "Khublei" (God bless you) when he blesses an expected 300,000 tribal Christians at a mass in this hilltop "abode of the gods," also called the "Scotland of the east," next month.

The pontiff is scheduled to visit New Delhi, Ranchi, Calcutta, Shillong, Madras, Goa, Cochin, Kottayam, Trivandrum, Pondicherry and Bombay during a 30-day tour beginning Feb. 1. He will be on a state visit the first two days at the invitation of Indian President Zail Singh.

The Pope has covered the deep sentiments of many an Indian when they heard that the holy father is learning Indian languages to be closer with them," according to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

Archbishop Hubert D. Rosario said the 700,000 Roman Catholics in northeast India "will contribute liberally to make this visit a memorable one."

It will be the first trip by a Christian religious leader to the strategic northeast since the Indian government enacted the Foreign Missions Regulation Act in early 1960s. The act barred the entry of new foreign missionaries to the region.

Many citizens of Shillong, famous for its waterfalls and pine groves, have started wearing colorful badges saying, "Pope John Paul II visits Shillong Feb. 4." The rugged scenery earned it the

name, "Scotland of the east."

"He comes from a far country but with a warm heart of friendliness," says one of the many leaflets on the Pope published by the local church.

More than 100 people are working full time to complete a large, four-tier wooden rostrum at Shillong's 18-hole golf course where the pontiff will celebrate mass.

The arrangements at the picturesque golf course will cost nearly 1 million rupees (\$83,300), according to Kirpal Singh, a supervising engineer.

Singh said the Pope will sit atop the 15-foot and 200-foot-wide rostrum. Below him will sit the bishops. Cultural dances by the local Khasi tribespeople will be performed on the second tier, while other priests will sit on the bottom

section, Singh added.

"Pilgrims have already started preparing to come to Shillong. We are facing a gigantic task in providing accommodation to all the people who will come here," said Tarcisus Resto, the local vicar general, who expects 300,000 pilgrims.

Shillong, capital of the Christian-majority state of Meghalaya, has 200,000 citizens. The mountainous tribal state borders Bangladesh.

Authorities have started selling heavily subsidised food rations to northeast tribespeople, most of whom are Christians. Under the new scheme, tribal citizens can buy rice and wheat at about 50 per cent of the market price. According to Archbishop Rosario, the

Pope is visiting Shillong to "pay tribute to the work of the church" in the northeast India, a region that borders four nations and is linked to the rest of the country by a very narrow valley.

Resto said, "The role of the church in the region has expanded rapidly since the 1950s. We preach the Gospel and try to bring the rest into our faith."

The estimated 2 million Christians of northeast India embraced Christianity this century after the arrival of foreign missionaries. A majority of them are Protestants, while the rest are Roman Catholics and American Baptists. The missionaries' proselytizing activities have drawn severe criticism from Hindu leaders, who have accused chu-

rchmen of exploiting the poverty and ignorance of tribespeople. Hindu leaders also have attacked the government for inviting the Pope, saying the tour will increase conversions.

Resto said the pontiff will tour India under very heavy security. "Security arrangements for him will be as tight as they are for a visiting head of state. The government has to decide whether he should speak from behind a bullet-proof podium," he added.

A hitherto unknown Bombay group, in a letter to the Vatican last month, threatened to kill the Pope if he visited India.

The 23 million Christians of India make up about 3 per cent of the population. Roman Catholics make up 13.5 million of them.

Andalucia looks to become Europe's sun belt

By Francisco Rabinberger
Reuters

SEVILLE, Spain — As winter descends on Andalucia and sun-seeking tourists desert its beaches, local residents dream of ways to put this impoverished backwater on the map of tourism and industry in the 21st century.

Andalucia is already blessed by the sun and the sea. With some extra help from European Community regional development funds, local leaders hope they can reap the benefits of the next century's leisure market and clean high-technology industries.

The examples they have in mind for the region, one of Europe's southernmost, which shares the same latitude as Tunis, are clearly

the U.S. sun belt and California's Silicon valley.

Jose Rodriguez de la Borbolla, president of the Socialist regional government, is involved in plans to develop Andalucia.

"We want to attract national and foreign investment to meet the challenge of post-industrial society," he told Reuters, pointing to a map which showed Andalucia, the home of one sixth of Spain's 38 million population, to be larger than Switzerland and Belgium combined.

The 20th century has bypassed Andalucia, where a lack of industrialisation and a feudal land tenure system have pushed unemployment above 50 per cent in some areas and forced about two million people to move to other

parts of Spain or abroad.

But local officials are confident that the region's 800 kilometres of sunny and largely undeveloped coastline, an unspoiled hinterland and the Sierra Nevada skiing resort will lure the leisure and high-technology industries of the future.

"There is a historical trend for industry to move south in Europe and the United States," said Borbolla, adding that Andalucia could attract sophisticated, non-polluting factories that would leave its tourist industry unharmed.

"People will retire earlier, working hours will be shorter and vacations longer," said Juan Manuel Castillo, the region's tourism minister, who has commissioned soc-

iological research into 21st century needs. "This is our market," he told Reuters.

He said the region was looking 25 years ahead and would not repeat the past errors which have turned a large part of Spain's coastline into a wall of high-rise buildings.

There are plans for "tourist cities" offering holiday-makers sports, hunting, fishing and libraries as well as courses in languages, gastronomy and archaeology.

Other projects are focussing on developing the hinterland with new hotels in restored historical places or built to blend into the scenery. One such hotel opened this year at Bubion, high up in the scenic Sierra Nevada mountains,

blending white bungalows into a maze of 16th century Moorish houses.

To attract tourism, there is a plan to build a formula one motor-racing circuit near Jerez to host the Spanish Grand Prix from 1986.

Poor communications have been among the main obstacles to Andalucia's development. It is not connected to Europe's motorway network and flights from Seville to Almeria, on the coast, are directed via Madrid.

Borbolla is banking on the 1992 world fair in Seville, which is expected to draw 20 to 30 million visitors to the regional capital, to offer the spur to improve the area's infrastructure. Plans have been approved to

build by 1991 fast roads to Seville from Madrid, from Malaga to allow easy access to Costa del Sol holidaymakers, and from Alicante through Granada to connect with the Mediterranean coast motorway from France.

Also under study are a 160 kph rail link from Madrid, which would put Seville 14 hours from Paris, and a project to turn Algeciras into a major port for container ships and exports of agricultural products and cement.

Airports in Seville and Malaga will be enlarged to handle four and eight million passengers a year, respectively, and officials hope that in 1986 Britain will allow Spain to share the airport of its Gibraltar colony.

Patagonian Boers advise Afrikaners against new trek

By Anton Ferreira
Reuters

COMODORO RIVADAVIA, Argentina — The Boers of Patagonia have some advice for white South Africans: "Don't do what we did."

At the turn of the century three shiploads of Afrikaners left South Africa for Argentina to get away from the Boer war against them.

Today about 400 of them live in and around this windswept town, 1,400 km (870 miles) south of Buenos Aires, farming sheep in the vast, flat emptiness of Patagonia.

They still speak Afrikaans (Boer is Afrikaans for farmer), attend the Dutch Reformed Church of their ancestors and ear-

South African delicacies like Biltong — dried meat.

But they have become as Argentine as the gaucho, drinking herbal tea and calling each other "che" (friend). Three generations after the Boer war, some fought Britain again under the flag of their adopted country during the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict in 1982.

"None of the Boers here wants to return to live in South Africa," said Gerardo "Boetie" Myburg, who was appointed Honorary South African Consul here five years ago.

He said that many white South Africans who are anxious to leave their country because of racial violence had visited Comodoro Rivadavia over the last year to investigate the possibility of settling

there.

"I advise them against it," Myburg said. "Taxes on farmers are high here and land is very expensive. Anyway, the situation in South Africa is bound to improve over the next few years."

Figures released in South Africa show that emigration has increased in recent months as the death toll from 21 months of rioting nears 1,000. The political unrest has also badly strained the economy.

Another member of the Boer community, sheep farmer Conrado Visser, said South African farmers would find life in Patagonia far more difficult than at home.

"Most of us in the community have managed to do quite

well, though we haven't become rich. But farmers coming out now would find conditions very different to what they are used to."

When Visser and Myburg get together over a glass of whisky their talk turns to sheep, drought and politics. They have enlightened attitudes to race.

"We've grown up away from apartheid so we don't think like they do in South Africa," said Visser, who has visited South Africa five times. "I was quite shocked at how they treat the blacks there."

He feels that changes are needed in South Africa if blacks and whites are to live together in peace. "You can't rule a country under (race segregation) laws that are 40 years out of date."

Myburg and Visser share the

South African government's suspicion of the press.

"We're going to erect a monument to the Boer community here," said Myburg. "But I'm afraid they might demolish it because of all the bad things they write about South Africa in the newspapers," he joked.

The Boer community here is highly regarded by Argentines for its role in founding the town and accidentally giving birth to Argentina's oil industry.

Desperate for water in the arid region, the first settlers demanded that the government drill wells. The wells found little water but lots of crude.

Eight of the first Boers who came to Patagonia are still alive. One of them, 88-year-old Lennie

Brekkie, remembers the hardships of the first years in Comodoro.

"There was no water, no houses, nothing. We had to build everything ourselves."

Another is Japie Eloff, 76, who lives on a street named South African Colonists in honour of the Boers.

For the Boers, the voyage to Patagonia was the third epic search for a new home made by families who first left the Netherlands about 300 years ago to settle in South Africa.

Their second migration, from the Southern Cape Colony to the interior where they founded the Boer republics of Orange Free State and Transvaal, is known as "the great trek."

Senator plays matchmaker to Washington Jewish singles

By Robert Green
Reuters

WASHINGTON — In Yiddish, a matchmaker is called a shadchen, and in Washington these days the number one shadchen is Senator Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota.

"I hope you talk and match. Don't be shy," the tall, tousle-haired Republican told young guests recently at one of the Boschwitz-hosted singles parties that are attracting notice and stirring talk on Capitol Hill.

Then, to break the ice, the 55-year-old senator and millionaire Minnesota businessman — a Berlin-born Jew who fled Nazi Germany as youth — began introducing two of his sons to young women guests.

The occasion was one of a series of parties Boschwitz has organised for young unmarried Jewish men and women in Washington. This one, marking the Hanukkah holiday, attracted nearly 1,000 guests to a hotel ballroom near Congress.

Like many American Jewish parents — he has four single sons aged 19 to 27 — Boschwitz is concerned that intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews will dilute the ranks of American Jews, even below their current two per cent of the population.

Jewish community leaders say that the children of mixed marriages are often not brought up in either parent's religion or else join one of the dominant Christian faiths.

The problem is more acute in Washington because many un-

married Jews have come from other cities to work and do not have families or friends to introduce them to eligible mates.

Enter Rudy Boschwitz, millionaire head of a do-it-yourself plywood business, U.S. Senator since 1978, concerned parent and, as it turns out, tireless matchmaker.

"This is an effort on my dad's part to bring Jews together," says party-goer Gerry Boschwitz, the senator's eldest son.

Many Jewish organisations in Washington have tried to bring young people together, including some synagogues that have Friday night services for singles, but the Boschwitz parties have become especially popular among young

professionals.

"There has been a tremendous response," Beth Gottlieb of Boschwitz's staff said. "Because the senator is hosting, people feel they will draw a better crowd of people."

Gottlieb said many older American Jews have written to Boschwitz asking him to help find Jewish husbands or wives for their children and grandchildren. She said the parties have grown from about 200 people earlier in the year to the Hanukkah party which jammed the hotel ballroom.

"We're a victim of our own success," said Democratic Congressman Larry Smith of Florida, who co-hosts the Boschwitz parties and promised guests a bigger

room for the next bash.

"There is an obvious growing need to find people of a like mind and culture," Smith said.

Smith, a notary public, offered to marry for free any couple who met at the party but there are no takers so far.

"This is a nice way to meet people," said Richard Miller, a lawyer from Baltimore. "They get a nice crowd. There's nothing like this in Baltimore."

"It's not like the bar scene," said Sharon Yablon, a schoolteacher who attended with friend Amy Levine. Both said they had boyfriends but thought the party would be fun.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg," said Scott Sugarman, an

examiner for the U.S. Patent Office, "referring to the size of the crowd." "I think it helps their (Boschwitz's and Smith's) image and helps the community."

The guests paused briefly as a rabbi lit the Hanukkah candles, then went back to eating, drinking, talking and looking. One man distributed leaflets advertising a new year's eve party for over-35 singles featuring kosher snacks.

Singles could sign up for various activities outside the ballroom such as tennis, golf, trips and political discussions.

"Let's do this again next month," Smith said. "Does anyone know a Jewish holiday that falls in January?"

AIDS ravages New York's heroin addicts

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuters

NEW YORK — A white cane keeps the door ajar to the tiny room in the rundown Times Square Hotel. A Bible lies open on the bed, an old television set on the meaningless jabber of afternoon cartoons.

Cockroaches race across the walls and over a rat that lies on the floor.

Welcome to the living hell of Alfredo V., a 24-year-old Puerto Rican heroin addict with bloody lesions all over his body, a man doctors say will be dead before winter ends.

He is the other kind of AIDS victim, a heterosexual and a heroin addict who has had drugs injected since he was 13.

Health officials fear that cases like Alfredo's are the bridge that brings the killer disease — usually associated with homosexuals — into the general population. Ninety per cent of all heterosexual AIDS cases in New York involve either an addict or someone in sexual contact with one.

The New York City Welfare Department says Alfredo no longer qualifies for help because he failed to fill out a form. It wants to cut his help off.

The city's huge Bellevue Hospital says it can do nothing for him by keeping him there. So he lives alone in the hotel.

Alfredo is a former pimp who used to run two "girls" to support his 200-dollars-a-day heroin habit, and his daily visits to a Harlem "shooting gallery" where he could get high in safety.

Both those women are now dead, one a suicide, the other a victim of AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The tainted needles they shared are leading to Alfredo's death.

"Everybody from that shooting gallery is dead except me," Alfredo says.

City health officials say the number of addicts afflicted with AIDS is rising dramatically, accounting for 34 per cent of all AIDS deaths in the city last year compared to 21 per cent for 1981 and 1982.

Now AIDS and its related illnesses account for half the deaths of heroin addicts in New York, 600 of the 1,200 a year. Soon it will be the undisputed major killer.

Alfredo's voice is a whine. He points to his left eye over and over again, saying, "I can't see nothing from it."

Often in the last stages of AIDS the victim goes blind.

Alfredo cannot read the Bible on his bed any more. "But I sleep with it and I pray with it."

As he talks, he scratches the lesions on his hands, wiping blood from them on his jeans. Often he seems to be in a trance.

He can only truly focus on his need for money. "Help me out," he tells a visitor. "You going to help me out?" he asks.

The only piece of paper in view in the room besides the Bible is the form letter from the welfare department telling him he is going to be taken off its rolls.

The day before Thanksgiving, the November holiday when American families unite, Alfredo called his brother and sister in Long Island, begging them to come see him. They refused.

Like many families with an AIDS victim, Alfredo is shunned by his own. The brother that turned him on to drugs died long ago of an overdose.

"They are afraid because of the children. I can't blame them. They are scared," he explains, as much to himself as to the visitor.

But then he describes what was for him a moment of pride in a life growing as dark as his eyesight.

That was when he would visit Pauline, one of his "girls," as she was dying in hospital of AIDS. "I wouldn't wear gloves or a mask. I would just go in to see her."

Pauline would not tell him she had AIDS. "We shared the same works (needle, syringe) for five years. I stopped once and she got me back on heroin. She was losing weight. She looked like a skeleton."

Alfredo says her death made him very depressed. "I cared for

her a lot."

Ron Davis, a black Vietnam war veteran who now studies for the episcopal priesthood and works full time with heroin addicts, says that after Pauline died, Alfredo became a male prostitute to support his habit.

But, Davis adds, Alfredo's doctors say he caught the disease the way the majority of New York's estimated 200,000 addicts do — from shared needles.

Davis is Alfredo's only regular visitor. He spent Thanksgiving with him. He fights his battle with the welfare department.

Davis does this because he once confided his fear of AIDS victims to a priest and the priest told him the story of St. Francis and the Lepers.

St. Francis feared lepers but one day he met one and was so moved by his plight that he took him under his cloak. In the morning, the leper was gone and St. Francis understood that the leper was Jesus.

The lesson was not lost on Davis.

Davis says there is an AIDS panic among many of the city's heroin addicts. One sign is that applications for the city's already crowded methadone clinics are on the rise.

Sterling Johnson, New York's special narcotics prosecutor, says more and more drug-sellers are now selling "sterile" needles.

James Michener out to complete his tales

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuters

NEW YORK — To hear James Michener tell it, he takes his time and now — aged 76 — is ready to complete the circle of his literary accomplishments.

Michener is one of the world's most successful writers, a man who blends fact with fiction producing novels the size of telephone books about whole countries (Poland and South Africa) and U.S. states like his latest work on Texas.

His novel Hawaii began with the sentence: "Millions and millions of years ago," and then moved forward.

Readers gobble up his works, buying millions of copies, and Michener slogs on, finishing up one state, moving to another, writing up one country and zeroing in on the next.

"Texas" is a 1,096-page novel about the state that was once an independent country, complete with a cast of characters that mirrors every outside aspect of Texan life.

With 1.1 million copies of "Texas" in print and first place on the best-seller lists, Michener says he is now set to write up Alaska and finish a dream.

"I have gone to Alaska because I want to round out my work in the

pacific. I always knew I would go to the north Pacific and that I would be there even if Alaska belonged to another nation. Alaska was just waiting for someone like me," he says.

Michener's first book was Tales of the South Pacific in 1948, based on his navy service during World War II hopping from one embattled island to another.

It won the Pulitzer Prize and formed the basis for the Broadway musical, Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific.

"Over the last 40 years I received about 100 letters asking me to write about Alaska and 20 years ago I decided I was too old to stand the rigours of the Alaskan winter, but two years ago I said 'what the heck,'" he told a small group of journalists.

He said he spent last winter in an Alaskan town just north of the Arctic circle, with temperatures 55 degrees below zero.

"I have the book on course. Two years from now, I will have a book. It will be noticeably shorter than Texas. I can assure you of that," he added.

But Michener said that even he sometimes doubts his abilities. "A lot of years of my life were spent with great projects. You get scared. You wonder whether you can hack it. It is professionalism that pulls you through."

European Giotto probe heads for rendezvous with Halley's comet

By Stephen Powell
Reuters

LONDON — Europe's first major exploration of space, on its way to Halley's comet, is all set to probe the mystery of the most celebrated object in the heavens.

The European Space Agency's Giotto mission is due to fly within 300 km. of Halley's nucleus on March 13. It is supported, in one of the most ambitious space adventures of the 1980s, by two craft from the Soviet Union and two from Japan.

Giotto, launched in July, has covered more than half its 700 million km quest to send back the first information on what the heart of a comet really looks like.

It should tell scientists about the shape, appearance and colour of the nucleus and satisfy their curiosity on a host of questions — are there patches of ice, rocks, craters, hills?

The rendezvous will be the climax of centuries of fascination with Halley's comet.

American astrophysicist Carl Sagan has dubbed the cometary missions "a stirring response by the human species to this emissary from the depths of space."

British astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell told Reuters: "It's one of the most exciting space projects of the decade... if the probes are successful we shall obtain certain knowledge of the nature of comets. So far our knowledge has to a large extent been speculative."

The currently accepted hypothesis, developed by Professor Fred Whipple in the 1950s, is that the nucleus of a comet is a "dirty snowball", a mixture of ice, frozen gases and dust a few miles in diameter.

As the comet approaches the sun, the dust and gases are blown away, streaming behind to form the familiar tail.

Lovell singled out three main areas where the probes should increase our knowledge.

The influence of solar winds, charged particles which radiate out from the sun at about 400 km a second. Many astronomers believe that solar winds help to account for the strange behaviour of comet tails, which sometimes disconnect themselves entirely from the nucleus.

Information about the density of material near the nucleus.

Testing the validity of Whipple's theory that the comet's nucleus is a "dirty snowball."

The missions to Halley's represent the combined efforts of 20 nations.

Giotto, a spinning cylindrical probe, is the first interplanetary spacecraft of the European Space Agency, which groups Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden Switzerland and Britain.

The 960-kg craft is named after

the 14th-century Florentine artist who incorporated the comet as the star of Bethlehem in his painting "Adoration of the Magi."

The Soviet Union's two Vega craft, which will help with the fine-tuning of Giotto's trajectory, carry equipment from nine countries, including the United States. They were launched in December last year.

Completing the flotilla are Japan's Sakigake and Suisei, meaning "pioneer" and "comet", launched earlier this year.

Proposals to send a U.S. spacecraft to Halley's comet were rejected in Washington for financial reasons.

But the Americans are still able to claim one cometary first. In September the U.S. international cometary explorer satellite flew through the tail of the Giacobini-Zinner comet.

This was the first probe ever to visit a comet and space scientists said the data it provided should help the missions to Halley's.

The U.S. probe gleaned information on unexpectedly strong magnetic turbulence and high-energy particles in the tail of Giacobini-Zinner.

FIFA suspends Kuwait from international matches

KUWAIT (R) — The world soccer governing body FIFA has suspended Kuwait from international competition in a move linked to a multi-million dollar scandal over alleged misuse of state funds.

Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Secretary-General Khalid Al Harban told Reuters FIFA, the Federation of International Football Associations, told the KFA of its decision Wednesday.

"The Kuwait F.A. is provisionally suspended, i.e. no international contacts are allowed. This suspension does not affect local activities," he quoted a FIFA telex as saying.

It did not explain the reasons for the move, but said the Spanish chairman of FIFA's legal committee, Pablo Port Bussoms, would visit Kuwait soon to investigate the KFA's situation.

The KFA board was sacked last November after allegations of "financial improprieties" involving some \$4.5 million, and referees then went on a five-week

sympathy strike which forced the new board to enlist 15 foreign referees last month.

Harban said the ban also cast doubt on whether local club side Al Arabi would be able to take part in the Asian Club Championship, starting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 10 days time.

But he said he believed the suspension would be lifted after

the FIFA official's visit.

The social affairs ministry last January told the KFA its 1983/84 accounts contained irregularities including expenses of \$1 million plus the cost of 40 tickets to Brazil for a training camp and friendly tournament which never took place.

A former KFA secretary-general was convicted last

November of embezzling more than \$250,000 by forging coaching contracts then pocketing the cash.

Harban alleged that Kuwait Olympic Committee chairman, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ousted KFA chairman, had misinformed FIFA about the current state of Kuwaiti football.

Britain wins Kuwaiti hockey title despite loss to Holland

KUWAIT (R) — Britain, helped by giant killing wins against Pakistan and India, won the Kuwait four-nations hockey title despite losing 3-2 Friday to the Netherlands.

World champions Pakistan, needing a win in the final game to have a chance of taking top honours, were held to a 3-3 draw by arch-rivals India.

Dutch captain Ties Kruijs, judged player of the tournament, forged a hat-trick in the dying minutes of the Netherlands game with Britain, to end its spectacular record of successes here.

Britain, who Thursday beat Pakistan for the first time in 34 years after triumphing over India for only the second time in 38 years, ended the series a point clear of Pakistan and the Netherlands in joint second place.

Kruijs put Holland ahead of Britain after seven minutes, making no mistake with a superbly struck penalty stroke.

But Britain, without injured veteran goalkeeper Ian Taylor and Thursday's two-goal hero Sherwani — fought back to equalise with a goal by Bachelor soon after the interval.

Kerly put his side ahead seven minutes from time but the Netherlands stormed back into the attack, forcing a short corner only four minutes from the end which Kruijs converted. He converted another only two minutes

from full time.

India, plagued by loose defence in their earlier matches, appeared to have regained their form when they went 2-1 up against Pakistan in the first half.

M.P. Singh scored twice within five minutes shortly before the interval, in reply to an early goal by Oasim Khan.

But Pakistan struck back with a series of attacks in which Ferozi first levelled then captain Sardar gave his side the lead nine minutes later. India salvaged their pride with an equaliser three minutes later.

Both sides launched furiously onto the attack and after bruising clashes, India's Somaya and Pakistan's Akhter were sent off to the cooler. Safar, of India, followed.

Safar, after completing his spell, returned to the game only to be sent off again three minutes from the end.

India, who won a similar four-nations series last week in Dubai, United Arab Emirates against Pakistan, Britain and West Germany, ended the tournament here the only team without a win.

They have played without three key members of the side, suspended over incidents in the Asia Cup last year.

Pakistan, too were sporting a new-look line-up, showing a lot of new blood since it won the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

Juventus, Barcelona to clash in European Champions' Cup

ZURICH (R) — Hopes that the 1986 European Champions' Cup would produce a "dream" final were dashed in Zurich Thursday when holders Juventus Turin were paired with Spanish soccer champions Barcelona in the quarter-finals.

The two-leg tie, to be played on March 5 and 19, will attract capacity crowds to both the Nou Camp stadium, where Barcelona will host the first game, and the Stadio Comunale in Turin.

But there will be a feeling of disappointment that two of soccer's greatest names have been drawn together at the quarter-final stage.

That said, the clash is packed with intriguing possibilities and the prospect of Michel Platini, Michael Laudrup, Bernd Schuster and Steve Archibald sharing the same stage for 180 minutes is one to savour.

The European Champions' Cup draw also produced two other outstanding ties and Aberdeen of Scotland will relish the idea of returning to the Ullievi stadium in Sweden, where they beat Real Madrid in the 1983 Cup Winners' Cup final, to tackle Gothenburg.

The Scottish champions will be at home in the first leg and if they

can take a two-goal advantage to Sweden they must be considered likely semifinalists.

Anderlecht have never made an impact on the European Champions' Cup but with either Juventus or Barcelona certain to go out the Belgians could be a serious threat this season.

Firstly, however, they must overcome Bayern Munich, European champions from 1974-76, though the Belgians have the advantage of travelling to West Germany for the first leg.

The remaining tie pits Steaua Bucharest against Finnish giant-killers Lahti.

With 1985 winners Everton part of the blanket ban on English clubs, the Cup Winners' Cup competition appears wide open and last season's runners-up, Rapid Vienna, should reach the last four at the expense of Dynamo Kiev.

Benfica of Portugal, two times European Cup Winners, remain the bookmakers' favourites and they should progress against Dukla Prague.

UEFA Cup holders Real Madrid should continue their defence of the trophy with relative ease against Neuchatel Xamax of Switzerland.

Boniek to quit after World Cup finals

WARSAW (R) — Polish striker Zbigniew Boniek said in an interview published Thursday that he planned to quit international soccer after the World Cup finals in Mexico this summer.

"My wife and I have decided I will end my national team career after Mexico," Boniek, a veteran of the 1974 and 1982 World Cups, said in an interview published by the sports magazine Sportowiec.

Boniek, 30, who plays for Roma in Italy, has scored 24 goals in 72 internationals.

Atkinson returns to Oxford seeking convincing victory

LONDON (R) — Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson will have no time for sentiment when he takes the league leaders back to one of his former clubs on Saturday.

United, five points clear at the top of the English League, travel to the Quaint Manor ground to take on first division newcomers Oxford and they need a convincing win to maintain the pressure on the chasing pack.

But Oxford, for whom Atkinson used to turn out as a burly defender in the 1960s, will not be easy prey at their compact home ground despite being fourth from bottom of the first division.

In recent weeks Oxford have shown flashes of fine form and threatened to send Tottenham tumbling out of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup Wednesday night before the London side levelled and snatched an extra-time winner in their third round replay.

United have not played for more than a week as their cup clash with Rochdale has been postponed several times due to bad weather.

Atkinson Thursday denied reports that he was poised to bolster his attack by signing Coventry striker Terry Gibson for around £500,000 (\$750,000).

"We have made no offers to Coventry for the player," he said. "Obviously we are interested in lots of players and looking for new signings all the time."

But the reports have fuelled speculation that gifted Welsh striker Mark Hughes is set to leave Old Trafford for a leading continental club.

United are being hotly pursued by champions Everton, Liverpool

and Chelsea, currently grouped together on 47 points.

Everton entertain Queen's Park Rangers at Goodison Park while Chelsea play hosts to Luton, another side enjoying an impressive run at present.

Liverpool play at Watford on Sunday.

Tottenham manager Peter Shreeve is likely to field a reshaped side against Nottingham Forest. England midfielder Glenn Hoddie, defender Graham Roberts and winger John Chiedozie were all injured in the cup win over Oxford Wednesday night and may be forced to miss the match.

Make or break for Steggle

Meanwhile, Everton manager Howard Kendall is set to offer on-loan midfielder Kevin Steggle a last minute chance to prove his worth and clear the way for a possible move to the English soccer champions.

Steggles joined Everton in December on a month's loan from struggling Ipswich. Kendall was ready to buy Steggle if the trial period was successful, but injury has limited his performances at Goodison Park to just one reserve match and the loan ends on Sunday.

But a crop of injuries has robbed Kendall of several first choice names for Saturday's encounter with Queen's Park Rangers and Steggle could be presented with the opportunity to parade his talents.

"It's make or break for me," he said. "I don't think a reserve team game is enough for anybody to make up their minds about me so I hope Howard Kendall gives me the chance."

Steggles is in contention because Everton, second in the table five points adrift of leaders Manchester United, are likely to be without Paul Bracewell, Kevin Sheedy and Trevor Steven, all of whom were hurt on new year's day.

Scotland's Frank McAvennie, West Ham's deadly marksman, is likely to need a fitness test on his injured knee before the Londoners trip to Leicester.

54 sailors prepare for solo round-the-world yacht race

NEW YORK (R) — Fifty-four sailors from 12 countries are gearing up for a 27,000-mile single-handed yacht race around the world that will offer more than \$100,000 in prize money, organisers announced Thursday.

Participants in the BOC challenge will set off on Aug. 30 from Newport, Rhode Island, and return to Newport some eight months later after scheduled stopovers in Cape Town, Sydney and Rio De Janeiro.

"This is the supreme individual test of a human being," said race chairman Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to solo sail non-stop around the world. "Everyone who finishes this Everest of sailing is a winner."

Two classes of boats will compete — yachts between 40 and 50 feet in length and yachts up to a maximum of 60 feet.

Philippe Jeantot of France won the inaugural "around alone" race four years ago over the same course and will aim to improve on his winning time of 159 days.

Ten other sailors from among the 17 starters in the first race are entered for the second running, which is expected to feature 17 yachts designed and built especially for the race.

Entrants, who include two women, range in age from 21 to 61.

U.S. sailors are best represented with 22 entered, followed by France with 11, Australia with five, Britain with four, Canada, Finland, South Africa and Switzerland each with two; and Brazil, Japan, New Zealand and Portugal with one apiece.

Two Koreas end Olympic talks without compromise

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Olympic officials from North and South Korea ended two days of talks here Thursday without a compromise on North Korea's demand to cohost the 1988 Seoul summer games.

"Some progress was made but we have not reached a final agreement," Chong Guk Chin, vice-president of the North Korean Olympic Committee told reporters.

He said further talks would be held in Lausanne in June.

The meeting, chaired by president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch, was the second direct encounter between the two countries over the issue. Talks in October foundered over North Korea's demand to split the Olympic events evenly.

The North Korean delegation earlier proposed that the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations, form a unified athletics team to compete under one flag in 1988, a move South Korean delegates dismissed as a bid to confuse the main issue.

South Korean chief delegate Chong-Ha Kim, asked if he was disappointed at the result of the talks told reporters: "No, not disappointed but also not satisfied."

Samaranch, trying to prevent the dispute from disrupting the Olympics, has already brushed aside the idea of North Korea cohosting the event as a breach of the Olympic charter.

The charter stipulates that the games be held in the country of the chosen city. Any exception would need a rule change backed by a two-thirds majority of the IOC's 92 member-nations.

North Korean warnings that it may boycott the games if its demand is not met have cast a shadow over the event.

Added weight has been given to the North's campaign by fellow communist countries led by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

China has praised the plan as worthy of serious consideration.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa Thursday said Moscow still opposed Seoul as the venue but would take part if the games were staged jointly by the North and South.

He did not make clear whether the Soviet Union would boycott the event if the games were limited to the South.

Moscow led a communist walk-out at the 1984 Los Angeles games, following a U.S. boycott of the previous Moscow Olympics to protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Edberg downs McEnroe

ATLANTA (R) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg scored his first victory over John McEnroe Thursday night in an eight-man round robin challenge tennis tournament here.

After his 6-3 7-6 win Edberg, who won his first Grand Slam

event in Australia last month, said: "I don't think I could have served better. I know I can beat McEnroe if I play very well."

McEnroe, referring to a stomach flu contracted two days ago, said: "I look forward to playing a lot more matches with him. But these aren't the circumstances you want to hold them under."

Edberg broke McEnroe's serve in the fifth game of the first set to go up 4-2. McEnroe came back to grab an early 2-0 lead in the second set but Edberg rallied with overpowering returns and serves. At one particularly frustrating point, McEnroe broke his racket when he slammed it against the court.

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CORPORATION (VTC)

Tender Announcement For Consulting Engineering Services of Manpower Development Project (Part A)

The VTC invites sealed tenders from consulting engineering firms who have been classified as class "A" at the Engineers Association in architectural, structural, electrical and mechanical fields for consulting engineering services to the above mentioned project.

A. Project description:

- The project consists of the following components:
 - Occupational Safety and Health Institute in Amman of total built-up area 2100 sq.m.
 - Driver training centre at Hashemieh and Extension to the existing centres at Hashemieh and Yajouze. The total built-up area is nearly 2000 sq.m.
 - Two training centres at Aqaba and at Safi of 2500 sq.m. each.

B. The project is financed partially by the World Bank.

- C. All bidders are to submit their offers in two separate sealed envelopes. The first shall include qualification data together with an up-to-date grading certificate issued by the Engineers Association in 1986. The second envelope shall include prices along with a bid bond amounting to JD 500 valid for 60 days at least.

- D. Project documents along with instructions for preparing prequalification statements may be obtained from the address below against a non-refundable sum of JD 25.

- The last date for obtaining the above documents shall be 18th Jan. 1986.
- The last date for submission of offers is 12.00 noon on Monday Feb. 3rd 1986.

- E. All correspondence should be addressed to Director General Vocational Training Corporation P.O. Box 925837 - Amman - Jordan Tel. 667197, 667198.

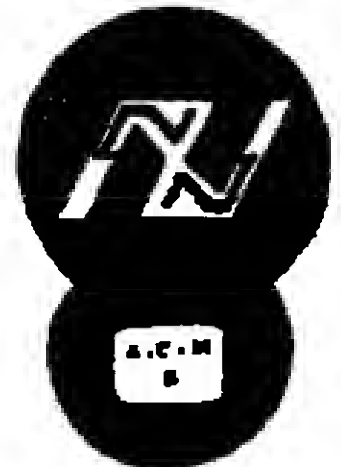
TO SERVE YOU BETTER



Arab Computers and Management Services Company, has moved to a new location, at the Jerusalem Commercial Complex, in Shmeisani.

We invite you to view our latest computer models including the versatile Commodore C-64, the new C-128 and PC range at our new location. The Pertec multi-user system model is also available.

ARAB COMPUTERS AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMPANY
Jerusalem Commercial Complex,
P.O. Box 184194
Shmeisani
Tel. 670877, 667699
Telex: 23238 uag jo



WANTED

An experienced Jordanian Electronics Engineer with good knowledge of telecommunications and computers. Must speak excellent English.

Please apply to P.O. Box 667, Amman.

SECRETARY WANTED

Company requires full-time secretary with 3 years experience and good command of English, Arabic, typing, filing & telex.

For details, please call 621427



RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyiah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30 - Midnight

Tel. 638968

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for lunch and dinner FRIDAY

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30 - Midnight

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT IN ABDOUN

Consists of two bedrooms, separate telephone and central heating.

Call: 662016 or 621377

TO LET Furnished Apt.

Ground floor with garden, 2 bedrooms, L-Shaped salon, central heating, and telephone.

Located in Jabal Amman behind Zahran Palace.

Please call tel. no. 632638

FURNISHED OR SEMI FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Three bedrooms, three bathrooms, two salons, sitting and dining rooms. Good location (Shmeisani) net area 200 metres. 3rd of 3-apartment building. Either furnished fully or semifurnished (fitted bedroom, wall to wall carpeting & curtains).

Tel. 668806

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

The villa consists of two bedrooms, salon, diningroom, library room, sitting room and deluxe kitchen with central heating and new deluxe furniture.

Location: near 5th Circle

Call: 632891

Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420

BODY HEAT (Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

PASSAGE TO INDIA (Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 622112

MAD MISSION (Colour)

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema Philadelphia

Tel: 634144 - 634149

CINEMA IS CLOSED

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

THE PRETTY GIRL AND THE ADVENTURER (Arabic)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:30

Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675573

ROLLER BOOGIE (Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.4530/40	U.S. Dollars
One U.S. Dollar	1.3560/70	Canadian dollar
	2.4580/4600	West German marks
	2.7700/20	Guilivers
	2.0870/90	Swiss francs
	50.10/20	Belgian francs
	7.5450/5500	French francs
	1673/1676	Yen
	202.25/35	Swedish francs
	7.5850/5900	Norwegian crowns
	7.5550/5600	Danish crowns
	8.5575/5625	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	340.60/341.10	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (AP) — Shares closed moderately higher on Friday as the London stock exchange recovered some of the large losses it recorded earlier this week.

Brokers reported slow but steady business with sterling's strength helping the market to advance as it moved to close a three-week accounting period before a new two-week account starting Monday.

"We're looking a little healthier mainly due to some steadiness on the currency front," one broker said. "The one point on the base rate also looks as if it's holding for the time being," he added, referring to the one-point hike in base rates to 12.5 per cent on Wednesday.

"There had been fears that the base rate would have to rise further because of a continued rise in money market rates."

Sections showing the strongest gains included mining finance, banks, construction and contracting and metals. Oil stocks rose slightly.

Government bonds were unchanged in the short-dated issue but 1/4 to 1/2 point higher in medium and long.

Consolidated gold rose 15 pence to 469 and RTZ was up 11 pence to 522 in a strong mining finance sector. One dealer said the sector had been boosted by a sharp rise in gold bullion prices.

Turnover at Amman Financial Market rises despite price fall

AMMAN (R) — Turnover on Jordan's official stock exchange, the Amman Financial Market (AFM), rose last year despite a slight decline in prices, AFM General Manager Hashem Sabbagh said Thursday.

Market performance had exceeded expectations despite the adverse effects of factors such as the recession in Gulf states and the continuing Iraq-Iran war, he told Reuters.

"We are optimistic it will further improve owing to various measures the government has taken to protect local industries and boost exports," he said.

Turnover last year totalled 67 million dinars (\$182 million), up from 59.3 million (\$161 million) in 1984, but still less than half the 1983 level of 141.4 million dinars (\$384.2 million).

A total of 37.3 million shares were traded last year, 8.6 per cent less than 1984, while the AFM share price index fell 3.8 points to 3.2 per cent over the year.

New issues in the primary market were four million dinars (\$10.8 million) worth of shares, 8.5 million (\$23 million) in bonds and 20 million dinars (\$54.2 million) in government development bonds, Dr. Sabbagh said.

There were 128 companies listed on the exchange at end-1985 with a combined paid-up capital of over 507 million dinars (\$1.4 billion).

The government was unhappy with such rapid growth because rural firms had diverted from the state sector sought-after commodities such as power, steel, cement and other industrial raw materials.

"The government is also concerned about the loss in farm land being given over to houses or factories and the fact that much of this growth has been unplanned," he said.

"The government wants an annual growth of 10 to 15 per cent in this sector. It has ordered local authorities to regulate planning of these firms more closely," another diplomat said.

One diplomat told Reuters the government was planning to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Pakistan, India to bolster commerce, communication

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and India Friday agreed to double public sector trade, allow private commerce and expand communications at the first of three meetings aimed at improving ties between the rival neighbours.

Pakistan Finance Minister Mahbubul Haq and his Indian counterpart, Mr. Vishwanath Prasad Singh, told reporters they hoped the links would bolster efforts to build confidence between their nations, which have fought three wars since 1947.

The meetings, the most intensive contacts between the two countries in years, are to prepare for a visit by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi due before the middle of this year.

The finance ministers said two-way public sector trade, now some \$50 million a year with a \$15 million surplus in Pakistan's favour, would at least double by the end of the year.

Islamabad lifted a ban on private imports of 42 approved items in response to New Delhi's move to ease imports of Pakistani goods in last year's budget.

Flights between the two countries will be increased on existing routes, direct telephone dialing introduced this year and shipping services expanded, Mr. Haq and Mr. Singh said.

The two governments would continue discussing guidelines for private industrial joint ventures, they added.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

Pakistani officials said some local firms were hurt by cheaper Indian goods when two-way private trade was last liberalised for 18 months in 1976-1978.

Several of the mainly agricultural items Pakistani traders can now import from India, such as betel nuts and spices, are already frequently smuggled across the long mutual border.

The list also includes tea, seeds, edible oils and manufactured goods such as drilling rigs, fire engines and laboratory instruments.

It did not include trucks, motor scooters, televisions or wheat, as some Pakistani newspapers earlier predicted.

Both sides said that the expansion of trade with India, whose economy is almost seven times larger than Pakistan's, would not harm local industry.

China slows rural industries' boom

PEKING (R) — China has ordered local authorities to clamp down on a boom in rural industry which brought mixed blessing to the national economy, Western diplomats said Thursday.

They were commenting on agriculture ministry figures released earlier showing that production by "township enterprises" leapt 35 per cent from the 1984 total to 230 billion yuan last year.

The ministry said 60 million people, or some 17 per cent of the rural labour force, worked in non-farm jobs, with the number projected at more than 100 million by 1990 when output will reach 460 billion yuan.

A ministry spokesman said the growth had given farmers the chance to become better off and overcome problems caused by excess labour and limited arable land.

But the government wanted balanced development in the growth of grain and other crop production, commerce and industry in rural areas, he said.

Western diplomats said that although the boom was soaking up surplus labour and producing needed goods, it was also using up farmland and scarce raw materials.

One diplomat told Reuters the government was unhappy with such rapid growth because rural firms had diverted from the state sector sought-after commodities such as power, steel, cement and other industrial raw materials.

"The government is also concerned about the loss in farm land being given over to houses or factories and the fact that much of this growth has been unplanned," he said.

"The government wants an annual growth of 10 to 15 per cent in this sector. It has ordered local authorities to regulate planning of these firms more closely," another diplomat said.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and would promote the talented instead, the New China News Agency said Thursday.

Meanwhile, China plans to scrap a system of promoting professionals based on their length of service and

Tutu fears Pretoria may resort to nuclear arms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — South African Bishop Desmond Tutu was quoted Friday as saying that Pretoria's white minority leaders could resort to nuclear weapons if their rule started to crumble.

In an interview published by the Washington Post, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who is on a three-week tour of the United States, said Pretoria might try to bring down the rest of the world if its rule fell to black unrest.

"If, as most of us believe, they do have nuclear capability, I don't put it past them to have their own version of a scorched-earth policy," Tutu said of the white minority.

"I myself actually fear that in the end, because they are so irrational, they seem to have a Samsara complex... they are going to pull down the pillars and everybody must go under with them," he added.

The 54-year-old Anglican bishop also predicted the onset of "an ugly phase which has the potential for being horrible" in South Africa and warned that black moderates like himself were under growing pressure to advocate violence.

"You may find that even placid, quiet people like us have suddenly picked up stones and we are fighting," he said.

In Johannesburg, South Africa, Government radio accused a visiting U.S. congressional delegation on Friday of "foreign interference" and retarding South Africa's moves to dismantle apartheid.

The criticism came in an editorial on the South African Broadcasting Corp. on the last day of the Americans' four-day, highly publicised tour.

In the resort and shipping centre of Durban, meanwhile, police

Many blacks, though, call these changes cosmetic.

Earlier this week, a pro-government newspaper labeled the Americans "busybodies."

There was no immediate reaction from the six visitors, four of whom are black.

On Thursday, the six toured the rutted, garbage-strewn streets of Cape Town's Crossroads black squatter camp.

In the explosion, three policemen and two power company employees suffered burns when they raced to an electrical station in answer to the first of two blasts. Police said a second bomb went off 30 minutes later as the men were investigating the earlier blast.

Eyewitnesses saw some of the men run from the building with their clothes ablaze. "I was knocked off my feet and when I looked over my shoulder I saw three men come out of the building with flames on their backs," said one resident.

A hospital spokesman said Thursday night that one of the policemen was in a critical condition.

The explosions came hours after the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla organisation vowed at a news conference in the Zambian capital Lusaka to intensify attacks in South Africa in its efforts to overthrow white rule.

Durban has been a prime target for guerrillas in recent years. Five whites were killed just before Christmas when a bomb exploded in a shopping centre near the city.

The coloured (mixed-race) suburb of Wentworth was blacked out by the explosions, which blew up two transformers.

Marcos rules out return to martial law

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said Friday next month's elections would go ahead as planned and that he would not reimpose martial law unless Communists began attacking cities and there was fighting on the streets.

Mr. Marcos, who imposed nine years of martial law in 1972 shortly before his second term was to expire, said he did not believe the Communists had the capability to attack cities.

He told a press conference opposition candidate Corason Aquino's fear that he would impose martial law ahead of Feb. 7 presidential election was a hallucination.

"This is one of the hallucinations they have about the intent of the administration and the president," Mr. Marcos said, adding that he could not force reimposition of martial law unless the Communist New People's Army (NPA) miraculously acquired the capability to attack cities.

Mr. Marcos, who has been in power for 20 years, also said he was not campaigning in the countryside and concentrating in and around Manila because of "bad weather."

Mrs. Aquino and her running mate Salvador Laurel, campaigning vigorously across the country, have said they are certain to win unless the ruling party cheats on a massive scale.

Fears have also been expressed by opposition leaders that Mr. Marcos might not step down from power even if he were defeated. But he said Friday he saw no basis for such fears.

Mr. Marcos, who has frequently accused Mrs. Aquino of conspiring with Communists, said her husband Benigno Aquino had helped establish the Communist Party in the Philippines.

Benigno Aquino, an arch political foe of Mr. Marcos, was shot dead at Manila Airport in August 1983 when he returned home from the United States in the hope of uniting the opposition.

His widow, who is riding the crest of a popularity wave, has denied any connections with the Communists but said she would free all political prisoners and legalise the Communist Party if she became the president.

The biggest crowd yet of the Philippine presidential election campaign greeted Corason Aquino on Friday in the opposition stronghold region of Bicol.

Mrs. Aquino thanked the crowd for coming to show that "we will all fight Marcos" and pleaded with them to leave and come back for the evening rally.

People waved everything from green towels to yellow papayas, hailing the opposition team with the colours that symbolise their candidacy.

"Here, there is no more hope for the dictatorship," Mr. Laurel told more than 50,000 people who packed Naga's sprawling plaza more than six hours before the rally.

Seeing the huge crowd, Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel ascended the stage to say a few words. When they asked the crowd how many would vote for the opposition, a multitude of hands shot up and waved, and cheering filled the plaza.

Crowds estimated by reporters at more than 100,000 filled the streets of Naga city and its surrounding suburbs as Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel rode for more than an hour atop a small truck.

Several leaders of Mr. Marcos' party in Bicol have bolted in recent months to support his opponents, who won most of the region's seats in a 1984 National Assembly election.

India deploys 44,000 troops in Punjab to prevent trouble by Sikhs

NEW DELHI (R) — About 44,000 paramilitary troops and police were Friday deployed across Punjab to prevent trouble during a protest road blockade after the state's chief minister warned that he would deal sternly with lawbreakers.

The one-day blockade, which comes at the end of a week of Sikh extremist attacks in Punjab in which at least eight people have died, was called by the militant All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF).

Police said they had arrested 280 members of the AISSF as part of the security operation surrounding the protest.

The federation is making several demands including the release of jailed suspected Sikh extremists.

Schools and colleges from which the AISSF drew support were closed in Punjab after students set fire to a bus in Amritsar Thursday to protest against the arrests, police said.

But Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala told Reuters he expected little trouble during the protest, adding that students would not be allowed to create trouble in the state.

Mr. Barnala said: "The students will not be allowed to create dis-

turbances in Punjab because the people are with us. They elected us and we will justify their faith in our government."

The protest is the first major confrontation between Sikh hardliners, spearheaded by the AISSF, and the moderates in Mr. Barnala's Akali Dal Party after it came to power in state elections last September.

The AISSF opposes a peace accord signed by the Akali Dal and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July, ending a three-year campaign by Sikhs for greater autonomy in Punjab.

The Akali Dal directed its youth wing members to counter the protest by cooperating with authorities in clearing roads which an AISSF leader said would be blocked by 300 "commando squads" of activists.

AISSF Convenor Harinder Singh Kahlon said Thursday that the commando squads of 6,000 supporters would lead the protest, despite Mr. Barnala's threat of stern action against them.

Kahlon said members of the "commando squad" had gone underground in the last few days to avoid arrest.

Meanwhile in New Delhi, the chief defence lawyer in the Indira Gandhi murder trial Thursday

said one of her alleged Sikh assassins was shot and seriously wounded before the prime minister was gunned down.

Fran Nath Lekhi, lawyer for principal defendant Satwant Singh, said the prosecution was suppressing vital evidence in saying that the 22-year-old police constable was shot by other bodyguards after the attack on Mrs. Gandhi on Oct. 31 1984.

The prosecution has said Satwant Singh and the other alleged assassin Beant Singh were disarmed and taken away immediately after Mrs. Gandhi was shot to a nearby guardroom where other guards opened fire at them.

Beant Singh was killed and Satwant Singh seriously wounded in the unexplained guardroom shoot-out.

"Satwant Singh's turban was missing from the bundle of his blood-stained clothes," Mr. Lekhi told Judge Mahesh Chandra.

"The turban was not found because Satwant Singh was shot and wounded not in the small guardroom, as is believed, but out in the open near the spot where Mrs. Gandhi was shot. It must have fallen in the bushes amid all the hustle and bustle."

"Probably this murder was part of a big conspiracy," Lekhi said.

Honecker receives U.S. delegation

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Communist leader Erich Honecker Friday received a delegation from the United States House of Representatives, one of the most senior U.S. groups ever to visit the country.

U.S. officials would give no details of the content of the talks but it seemed likely they focused on expanding bilateral economic relations and on world political matters, possibly including present U.S. strains with Libya.

The delegation was led by Tom Lantos, a Democrat from California and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Members of the ways and means committee and agricultural experts were also present.

East Germany has cultivated good relations with Libya since the mid-1970s and East Berlin recently pledged support for Tripoli against any "imperialist aggression."

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz visited West Berlin last month when he embarked on a tour of East European countries. The most senior U.S. visitor here was the present Ambassador to Bonn, Richard Burt, when he was assistant secretary of state two years ago.

Meanwhile West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Thursday he hoped East German leader Erich Honecker would pay a long-awaited visit to West Germany in time to sign a cultural agreement, ready in a few weeks.

But the chancellor made clear at a news conference in Bonn that he had doubts whether Mr. Honecker would find space in a schedule crowded with Communist Party conferences throughout Eastern Europe in the coming months.

Mr. Honecker was scheduled to make the first visit to West Germany by an East German leader in 1984, but the trip was called off under apparent pressure from Moscow. Since then there has been persistent speculation about a new date.

Mr. Kohl said he would be delighted if Mr. Honecker could be present for the signing of a cultural agreement which the two countries drafted last year after years of negotiations.

The accord would be ready for signature in a few weeks after all West German federal states had approved it, he said.

er would find space in a schedule crowded with Communist Party conferences throughout Eastern Europe in the coming months.

Mr. Honecker was scheduled to make the first visit to West Germany by an East German leader in 1984, but the trip was called off under apparent pressure from Moscow. Since then there has been persistent speculation about a new date.

Mr. Kohl said he would be delighted if Mr. Honecker could be present for the signing of a cultural agreement which the two countries drafted last year after years of negotiations.

The accord would be ready for signature in a few weeks after all West German federal states had approved it, he said.

Haiti leader closes schools indefinitely

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier has closed the nation's schools indefinitely and many students have been arrested after anti-Duvalier protests this week, residents said.

They said the biggest demonstrations were in the north-western town of Gonaives and the Port of Petit-Goave, 30 kilometres west of the capital. The customs house in Petit-Goave was burnt down, witnesses said.

The security forces made wide sweeps, picking up students in the streets or their homes, residents said.

"Here, there is no more hope for the dictatorship," Mr. Laurel told more than 50,000 people who packed Naga's sprawling plaza more than six hours before the rally.

Seeing the huge crowd, Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel ascended the stage to say a few words. When they asked the crowd how many would vote for the opposition, a multitude of hands shot up and waved, and cheering filled the plaza.

Crowds estimated by reporters at more than 100,000 filled the streets of Naga city and its surrounding suburbs as Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel rode for more than an hour atop a small truck.

Several leaders of Mr. Marcos' party in Bicol have bolted in recent months to support his opponents, who won most of the region's seats in a 1984 National Assembly election.

In a radio broadcast, President-for-Li Duvalier, nicknamed "Baby Doc," ordered schools throughout the country to stay closed until further notice.

Residents of Gonaives said one schoolboy was shot dead by security forces on Monday and another wounded.

Three students were killed during protests in Gonaives during demonstrations in November after a Catholic radio station was closed down.

Diplomats said Mr. Duvalier reacted to the latest demonstrations with a statement warning that people who disturbed the peace would be severely punished.

But he also announced price cuts for a number of basic consumer goods, including diesel oil, flour and cooking oil, they added.

Residents of Gonaives and Petit-Goave said both towns were now quiet although an unknown number of people had been arrested.

They described this week's demonstrations as more political than the November protests, with students calling for the downfall of Duvalier.

Pravda attacks U.S. over Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda Friday accused President Reagan of taking part in a Western media campaign to fool public opinion about Afghanistan.

Without naming him directly, a Pravda commentary said "residents of the White House" spoke of resolving regional conflicts while in practice trying in every way to complicate the situation around Afghanistan.

The daily said the Kabul government was seeking to broaden its social base and was promoting a constructive dialogue with non-Communist political forces.

But the country's development was held back by the "undeclared war" waged by the United States and its allies.

Pravda repeated allegations that U.S. military instructors were training Afghan rebels to blow up hospitals and schools and kill doctors and teachers. The guerrillas were also taught to dress in Soviet uniforms and kill women, old men and children in a bid to discredit the Soviet forces, it said.

The Kremlin, which sent in troops to support Afghan Communist leader Babrak Karmal in 1979, publicly blames the continuing guerrilla war on Western support for the rebels.

The Pravda commentary said Western news media were waging a vicious anti-Afghan campaign.

"Highly-placed officials, including residents of the White House, often take part in it," it said. "Speaking in favour of the resolution of regional conflicts,

they in practice strive in every way to heighten tensions around Afghanistan."

"Bandits and cut-throats" were described as freedom fighters so as to deceive the American and other people, and events were presented in a false light, Pravda said.

Another newspaper, the agricultural daily Selskaya Zhizn, attacked U.S. military aid to the Pakistani government, a regular target of Soviet press attacks over Afghanistan.

A commentary said the United States was using Pakistani Armed Forces as a means of putting pressure on neighbouring India's Non-Aligned foreign policy.

It also quoted Asian press reports as saying Washington wanted to deploy nuclear missiles in Pakistan.

they in practice strive in every way to heighten tensions around Afghanistan."

"Bandits and cut-throats" were described as freedom fighters so as to deceive the American and other people, and events were presented in a false light, Pravda said.

Another newspaper, the agricultural daily Selskaya Zhizn, attacked U.S. military aid to the Pakistani government, a regular target of Soviet press attacks over Afghanistan.

A commentary said the United States was using Pakistani Armed Forces as a means of putting pressure on neighbouring India's Non-Aligned foreign policy.

It also quoted Asian press reports as saying Washington wanted to deploy nuclear missiles in Pakistan.

Greek-Turkish row set to prevent NATO study

BRUSSELS (R) — A worsening dispute between Greece and Turkey over rights in the Aegean Sea is set to prevent the publication of a major NATO report for the first time, senior NATO officials have said.

They said it was highly unlikely that the alliance would be able to publish its biennial "force comparisons," updating the East-West military balance, because Turkey would not allow Greek forces on the Aegean Island of Lemnos to be counted.

"Barring a sudden and unexpected outbreak of common sense, there will be no force comparisons this year," a senior NATO official said.

The sources said both sides had dug in their heels with Greece refusing to accept any version that excluded the Lemnos forces and Turkey blocking any inclusion of the troops.

Turkey argues that the Greek island was demilitarised by the 1924 treaty of Lausanne but Greece says this obligation lapsed with the 1936 Montreux Treaty.

NATO officials said the dispute was particularly infuriating because the publication responded to widespread calls for better information to provide a basis for debate in public and inside the alliance on Soviet and Warsaw Pact military capabilities.

Turkish Ambassador Osman Olcay told Reuters: "The force comparisons have to be based on forces whose existence and use is agreed by all NATO members. As there are forces that we consider illegal, we don't want them mentioned."

He noted that the forces of two other NATO countries, France and Spain, were not counted in the balance. Paris and Madrid do not place troops under the allied military command.

Turkey had proposed using the last agreed data on both Greek and Turkish forces from June 1984, when the Lemnos units were not counted. The other allies were willing but Greece, which declared the Lemnos

forces to NATO for the first time in autumn 1984, was unlikely to accept, Mr. Olcay said.

NATO officials confirmed that the government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu had been asked to think again about this solution but they doubted that it would agree.

Greece has boycotted all NATO exercises for the last two years, accusing the alliance of bias in Turkey's favour.

The two countries also disagree over air control and territorial waters in the Aegean, as well as the Turkish military occupation of northern Cyprus.

Greece has sought recently to improve frayed relations with the United States, which hopes to retain bases in Greece which Mr. Papandreu once vowed to shut, but allied diplomats said there was no sign that this new warmth would extend to ties with NATO.

"On the contrary, there are some signs that Mr. Papandreu, for domestic political reasons, may turn even more awkward

towards NATO to compensate for his rapprochement with the Americans," one senior diplomat said.

Mr. Olcay said Turkey had never dragged bilateral disputes with Greece into NATO and Ankara shared other members' regret that these issues were increasingly obstructing alliance business.

The Force Comparisons, first published in 1982, had become a valued reference work for reporters and academics, reflecting changing Western perceptions of the Eastern military challenge.

The last edition effectively revised downwards the Warsaw Pact threat by removing 65 Soviet divisions, which could not be brought to bear in a central-European war, while the number of NATO divisions increased slightly.

Officials said an attempt would probably be made to issue some of the data this year, even if the whole booklet could not be published.

Column

We Are The World gets 4 award nominations

LOS ANGELES (R) — We Are The World, the hit record that raised millions of dollars for the fight against famine in Africa, was nominated for four Grammy awards, the U.S. recording industry's equivalent of the Oscar.

Mark Knopfler, leader of the rock group Dire Straits, whose record Money For Nothing was a big hit, led the field with eight nominations, including for best record and best album. Sting, who worked with Knopfler on Money For Nothing, received five nominations, as did performers Tina Turner and Phil Collins and conductor Robert Shaw.

We Are The World, recorded by a host of U.S. pop stars including Turner, Michael Jackson and Ray Charles, was nominated for Record Of The Year, Song Of The Year, Best Pop Performance by a Group and Album Of The Year. Mick Jagger was nominated for best rock vocal performance for Just Another Night. Julian Lennon, son of Beatle John Lennon, and Sade were among those nominated for Best New Artist.

Woman candidate poses in negligee

HOBOKEN, New Jersey (R) — Some politicians take off their gloves in an election campaign and come out swinging. Evelyn Arroyo, who is seeking a seat on the Hoboken Board of Education, has taken off her dress and set the whole town talking. A campaign advertisement in the local newspaper in this Hudson River waterfront town facing New York City shows Arroyo curled in a seductive pose wearing a silken off-the-shoulder negligee. The headline underneath reads: For A New Approach. The 21-year-old teacher's aide says no one had taken her campaign seriously. "People aren't going to see my inside unless I show them the outside," she said.

Man attacks pilot when told not to smoke

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — A man told not to smoke aboard a twin-engine plane nearly caused a crash before another passenger beat him unconscious, authorities have said. During the fight for the controls, the plane nose-dived twice, dropping 666 metres in the first dive and coming close to crashing in the second, they said. A spokesman for Southern Jersey Airways said its plane would have crashed if another passenger, Robert Abrams, had not subdued the man. Abrams said he acted as he did "because I thought I was going to die. After eight or nine punches I knocked him out," he said. Authorities said John Johnson, starting hitting the pilot and grabbing the plane's controls when told to stop smoking. The plane was on a flight from Atlantic City to Islip, New York.

Woman kills 3 sons

CHESTER, England (AP) — A mother who admitted killing three of her sons has been sent to a maximum-security psychiatric hospital. Prosecutor Gareth Williams told Chester Crown Court, in north west England that Sandra Riley drowned her 8-year-old son Andrew in a bathtub last April despite his frantic efforts to climb out screaming: "Don't kill me, mummy." Mrs. Riley, 33, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and innocent to the more serious charge of murder. The prosecution accepted the switch because of her mental state. Williams said that three years ago, Mrs. Riley was put on probation for killing two other sons, Christopher and Philip, by smothering them when they were less than a year old. He said she was reported then to have been suffering from postnatal depression and that psychiatrists had said she was a danger to her other children.

Turkish sex magazine seized

ISTANBUL (R) — An Istanbul court ordered the seizure of the second issue of the monthly sex magazine Playmen on grounds of obscenity, its publishers said Friday. A spokesman told Reuters the court took offence at an explicit description of the sex act published in the form of a letter. Three new sex magazines went on sale in Turkey at the end of last year, making a total of five on the newsstands.

Chinese leader defends reforms in major speech

PEKING (AP) — China's second-most powerful figure, Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, defended current open-door reforms to a major assembly of state and army officials this week, the Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

The address to more than 8,000 party, government and military cadres showed that Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and his reformers are "clearly on the defensive," one senior Asian diplomat said of the announcement.

Mr. Hu appeared before the gathering Thursday in Peking's Great Hall of the People, the official news agency reported a day after the event.

Mr. Hu cited nine major decisions taken since Mr. Deng came to power in December 1978, but according to the Xinhua report, market-oriented economic reforms only ranked third.

The economic changes are the keystone of Mr. Deng's policy but have led to corruption and debate over whether it is correct to use capitalist methods in a Socialist society.

Diplomats said the speech was the latest indication that Mr. Deng's reformers are encountering opposition. They already have announced there will be no new reforms in 1986, a year of "consolidation."

The consensus at the top is becoming a little frayed," said one diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Xinhua report mostly paraphrased Mr. Hu's speech but

quoted him as declaring that China had entered a period of rejuvenation by taking the road to "Socialism with Chinese characteristics."

He said the progress achieved so far was due to nine decisions by the party Central Committee:

Rejecting Mao Tse-Tung's erroneous idea of "taking class struggle as the key link," and based on China's practical conditions, aiming to quadruple national output by the year 2000.

Thoroughly denying the 1966-76 "Cultural Revolution" and correctly assessing Mao, who was revered in his time but is now criticised for his mistakes.

Opening to the outside world and invigorating the economy with "gradual but resolute" reform, rural and urban.

Redefining principles on national defence in line with new historical conditions. The People's Liberation Army is shedding 1 million of its estimated 4 million personnel.

Readjusting foreign policy based on Chinese independence and peaceful reunification with Taiwan.

Reforming the cadre system to promote talented younger people. Sixty-four new members, average age 50, joined the party Central Committee in September upon the retirement of party elders. Similar changes took place in state departments and the army.

Developing a "Socialist civilisation," ideologically and materially.

Liz Taylor announces horse auction to fight AIDS

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, a leading fund-raiser in the fight against AIDS, announced Friday an Arabian horse auction and benefit next month that is expected to raise one million dollars for AIDS research.

Mrs. Taylor, chairman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AFAR), told a news conference that proceeds from the events in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Feb. 10 would be shared by AFAR and the Arizona AIDS Fund Trust.

The 53-year-old actress became involved in the fight against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) after her friend, the late actor Rock Hudson, was stricken by the disease, which destroys the body's defences against infection.

"Though AIDS continues its relentless, savage course, we will not be defeated," said Mrs. Taylor, who organised a Hollywood fund-raising dinner last summer that raised \$1 million for AIDS research.

She also announced that the hit record That's What Friends Are For — sung by Dionne Warwick, Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Gladys Knight — had sold one million copies. All proceeds go to the fight against AIDS.

Bill Mischner, AFAR's executive director, said at least one million dollars was expected to be raised at the auction of between five and 10 Arabian horses donated by U.S. breeders.

Meanwhile researchers said Thursday the AIDS epidemic in the United States has already cost more than \$6 billion in medical bills and potential income lost due to disability and premature death.

Their study of the cost of the first 10,000 cases of AIDS in the United States, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), was described as the first attempt to assess the economic impact of AIDS.

According to the CDC, 16,138 cases of AIDS had been reported in the United States up to Jan. 6, and the number of diagnosed cases is expected to double in the next 12 months.

The study said AIDS now represents less than five per cent of the \$10-20 billion total annual cost of medical care and lost income from infectious diseases in the United States.

But if AIDS spreads as predicted, the report said, it will eventually increase that annual cost by 30 to 55